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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Delegates Cited on Deportation

TA1712160592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck in Washington on reactions in the Palestinian camp to the decision on deportations—recorded]

[Text] [Beck] It was a long night for the Palestinian delegation in Washington, which awaited the High Court of Justice's ruling on the deportations. It is clear to the delegation members that a favorable ruling will deal a very harsh, perhaps even a deadly, blow to the peace process. If the decision is not changed, Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, says, this means that the Israeli Government does not want the peace process to continue.

[Sha'th, in English] I think it was been the single most important attack on this peace process. I haven't seen anybody who was not shocked, and I must tell you, I was extremely shocked with the decision, never expecting it to have come from this particular government, nor for the ministers who voted for it to vote for it.

[Beck, translates and continues] Sha'th added that the decision is in no proportion to the murder which was perpetrated, and therefore he must strongly condemn this act, which threatens the entire peace process.

Both Sha'th and Faysal al-Husayni reject outright the claims heard in the Israeli Government that deporting the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people will strengthen the supporters of the peace process in the territories.

[Al-Husayni] These people are Palestinians, after all. Indeed, we are opposed to certain things they do, while they are opposed to certain things we do, but they belong to the Palestinian people, who must not be expelled. If anybody is held responsible for a security or other offense, then this is an individual case. [passage omitted]

Arab Delegates Meet With Bush, Protest Deportation

Syrian Delegates Meet Bush

JN1712211292 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] U.S. President George Bush today received the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to Middle East peace talks, headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf.

At the meeting, President Bush said that through this meeting, he wanted to express how much he is concerned with the peace process and his conviction that it should continue without delay or interruption due to its importance to the region, the world peace, and to the United States itself.

The head of the Syrian delegation raised the inhuman situation and the illegal measure which Israel has made by deporting several hundreds of Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories, and demanded that the United States do all it can to prevent implementation of this action that threatens the peace process.

President Bush expressed his dissatisfaction with this subject, and said that the concerned quarters in the U.S. are doing what they can to interfere with the Israeli Government in order to prevent such a measure. He hoped that the peace process will not be affected by the results of this incident.

President Bush stressed that the United States has always opposed, and is strongly opposing, deportations, and it hopes that its efforts in this context will be successful.

President Bush inquired about progress on the Syrian track of peace talks, and the head of the Syrian delegation told him that regrettably, this track is still deadlocked because of the Israeli side's intransigence and refusal of the principle of withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace, which President Bush made a slogan for his initiative.

The head of the Syrian delegation conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to President Bush and his wishes of continued good health and happiness. President Bush expressed deep thanks for President al-Asad's condolences when he lost his mother, and asked the head of the Syrian delegation to convey his greetings and thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Chief Delegates Cited

JN1712058292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Statements by chief Arab delegates to Washington peace talks after 17 Dec individual meetings with U.S. President Bush]

[Text] The Arab delegations to the Washington negotiations have decided to boycott today's sessions of talks to protest Israel's decision to deport 418 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, after meeting with chief Arab delegates, said that a joint decision was made in this regard. He affirmed that the entire peace process would be jeopardized if the deportation decision were carried out.

An Arab negotiator said that the chief Arab delegates decided to head for the U.S. State Department to express their condemnation of this Israeli move and announce their boycott of today's sessions of talks.

The chief Arab delegates to the negotiations have separately met with U.S. President George Bush at the White House. They informed him of the latest developments of the negotiations. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that the deportation constitutes an obstacle in the way of Middle East peace.

[Begin recording in English] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. al-Majali, do you think the deportation of 400 Palestinians will disrupt the talks?

[Al-Majali, shown seated beside President Bush] Certainly, I will be saying something about that, because it is necessary; and we feel it is really a great obstacle in the path of peace, which the president and Mr. Baker has paved all the way. So we do not want any obstruction in the way. We hope that it would not be an obstruction, it would not take place; certainly with the help of the United States of America and the president himself.

[Chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi] Certainly, we denounce the deportation as an oppressive act, as an act in violation of the principles of human rights; and it is a challenge to the whole democratic world. Now, we boycott the meeting as a protest. I am hoping that this resolution of deportation will not be carried through. But in the event that this resolution is carried through, I really cannot tell you what will happen. I think it will deal a death blow to the peace process.

[Chief Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, shown seated beside President Bush] We are not boycotting the peace process. We are protesting against what is happening today when more than 400 people, human beings, sitting blindfolded, with their hands tied behind their back in buses, waiting for a decision about something which is, to begin with, really not acceptable, neither in the international nor in the humanitarian law. So, we shall tell our Israeli counterpart how we feel about that. And we believe that this is not really helpful to the peace process.

[Chief Lebanese delegate Suhayl Shammas, shown seated beside President Bush] It will loom largely over the talks. And we expressed the hope that President Bush, with his weight and the administration, will do what they think they can in order to have the Israeli Government rescind the decision, because, in itself, deportation is bad, and under the circumstances, it will adversely affect the peace process, I regret to say. And if the news were to be correct that they could be deported to Lebanon, this will further aggravate an already grave situation in the Lebanon. [end recording]

Al-Majali: Bush Meeting 'Constructive'

JN1812081292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, has said his meeting today with U.S. President George Bush was useful, friendly, and constructive. The meeting, attended by all of the President's aides, reviewed Jordanian-U.S. relations and the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track, he added.

Dr. al-Majali said: President Bush has voiced admiration for His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian position in the negotiations.

In an interview with the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY in Washington, al-Majali said conversation during the meeting, also attended by the Palestinian delegation, focused on the principal and important subject; namely, Israel's attempt to deport large number of Palestinian citizens from their land and country, which was an unjust measure, and the threats resulting from this measure against security and the peace process, in all of its dimensions. He explained that such a measure will be detrimental to the parties involved in the peace process.

Dr. al-Majali asserted that President Bush has unequivocally explained that the U.S. Administration opposes such a measure and is against the deportation, which, if it takes place, will lay a serious obstacle in the path of peace.

Regarding the last session of talks in the eighth round, which was scheduled to be held today, the head of the Jordanian delegation said the Arab delegations have not gone to that session to protest Israel's attempt to escalate violence in the region by deporting the Palestinians from their homeland and country.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i, Ambassador Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawnah, and Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman of the Jordanian delegation.

President Bush met with the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations for 25 minutes. He also met with the Jordanian delegation alone for 15 minutes.

Lebanese Discuss Deportation

NC1812090492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Israel has carried out the [Palestinians'] deportation in record time compared with previous deportations, the preparations for which used to take several days. The decision was made and carried out in one day, clearly contemptuous of Arab reactions, which until yesterday evening were limited to hope and satisfaction with the international stand. International reaction also was limited to an appeal to suspend the deportation order.

The practical Arab reaction was apparent in a protest by the Arab negotiators in Washington, who boycotted the final day of the eighth round of bilateral talks. They conveyed their complaints to U.S. President George Bush, who received them at the White House but did not denounce the expulsion.

President Bush began his meetings by receiving the Lebanese delegation led by Ambassador Selwyl Shammas, who expressed appreciation for Bush's initiative.

Shammas said he and Bush discussed the peace process and Lebanon's stand on it. He added: We informed him of our continued full, unreserved commitment to the peace process. We discussed with the President developments in the occupied territories, particularly the Israeli Government's decision to deport approximately 400 Palestinian citizens, the grave repercussions of this act, and the danger it poses to the peace process.

Shammas emphasized: We believe that their deportation to Lebanon will have a very negative effect on peace prospects. This surely will not consolidate peace and will have a negative impact on Lebanon's future and stability.

Arab Boycott Said Only for 17 Dec Meetings

NC1712191592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Washington correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik]

[Text] Protesting Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinians to the Lebanese-Israeli border, supporting Arab delegations boycotted the meetings scheduled for today, the last day of the eighth round of talks. The Palestinian-Israeli meeting—scheduled for 0900 Washington time—and the Jordanian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli meetings—scheduled for 1200 Washington time—were not held. The Lebanese and Israelis concluded the eighth round yesterday at the proposal of the Israeli delegation, which disagreed over Lebanon's rejection of all its proposals. According to the delegations' statements, Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, said that Israel is refusing Lebanon's demand to implement Resolutions 425.

An informed Syrian source told us that the boycott applies to today's meetings only and not to the peace process.

The Arab and Israeli delegations met with U.S. President George Bush at his invitation to listen to their views and assessments of the peace process. The first delegation to meet with the U.S. President was the Lebanese, headed by Selwyl Shammas. Following the meeting, Shammas said that the Israeli deportation measure will cast doubt on the peace talks. He added: I believe that the deportation will hurt the peace process and increase tension in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by White House Chief of Staff James Baker, who helped launch the peace process when he was secretary of state; Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft; and Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs.

Israelis Regret Boycott

TA1712153092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Washington correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] As Hanan 'Ashrawi protested several hours ago, the Palestinians did not show up for this morning's peace talks with the Israeli delegation. The Israeli delegation arrived at the State Department at the scheduled meeting time—0900 Washington time—but the Palestinians were not there.

The Israeli delegation just announced that it regrets the Palestinian decision not to attend the talks. The Israeli delegation says that the decision to deport Hamas members temporarily was made against those who murder Jews and wish to sabotage the peace process. Therefore, the Palestinian decision not to show up is received in Israel with deep regret. Our delegation ends this announcement by saying: We remain committed to the peace talks with the Arabs and will not spare ourselves any effort to promote the talks and attain peace.

The Israeli delegation will meet President George Bush at the White House in a little over an hour. It is possible that the delegation will hear the President's opinion on the decision to deport the 418 Hamas members. The U.S. Administration is also waiting for the conclusion of the legal process currently under way in Israel.

The meetings with the other Arab delegations were set for later today—1200, in Washington—because this morning President Bush met consecutively with all of the delegations participating in the peace talks. Therefore, it is hard to tell what will happen in some two hours at the State Department. If I may draw conclusions from the sympathy the Arab delegations demonstrated with the intifadah anniversary last week, when no one showed up after the Palestinians decided not to come, it is very probable that the other Arab delegations will not show up for the conclusive discussions of the eighth round of talks here, in Washington.

Israelis Hope Talks Continue

TA1012060092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Golan] [passage omitted] The heads of the Israeli delegation hope that the deportations will not upgrade the peace talks with the Arabs. Professor Itamar Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] We are talking about much more basic questions here than reactions to the removal of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people. The question festering on the agenda is whether the State of Israel is engaged in a peace process and may sign peace accords with Arab countries that will know how to maintain this

peace in the face of challenges and turbulence as well. The peace between Israel and Egypt withstood the Lebanese war and the intifadah; it shook from time to time, but it passed this test. I hope that partners such as the Syrians and those on the other tracks will be able to show us that they are capable of not only talking about peace but also making and ultimately maintaining it, considering that we know we live in a region where a state of peace will be challenged from inside the territories and from other corners of the Middle East.

[Gelber] Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the talks with the Palestinians, provided the following reaction:

[Rubinstein] This process began and is continuing not because we are nice people or are loved by anybody or for any external reason; the process was started and is proceeding because we have an interest in it, as do the Arabs—the Arab countries and the Palestinians—who sit down with us. When such an interest exists—and, in fact, all share a common interest against Hamas fundamentalism and the likes—then this process should continue. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns Deportation of Palestinians

NC1812123192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League has strongly condemned the Israeli Government's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories. The Arab League emphasized that such arbitrary and irresponsible decisions threaten the peace process, which is the only hope for attaining a stable and safe situation in the region.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out in a statement today that this decision is a continuation of Israel's practices against human rights and the Geneva Convention. He warned that Israel's persistence in such acts will only fuel the situation. He called on the United Nations and the international community to stop the Israeli measures, suspend the deportation order, and return the Palestinians to their homes.

Islamic Affairs

Maghreb Union Expresses Solidarity With Libya

PM1512113092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p4

[Mohammad al-Ashhab report: "Maghreb Memorandum on 'Repercussions' of Resolution on Sanctions Against Libya"]

[Excerpts] Rabat—The Maghreb foreign ministers yesterday issued a statement expressing "the solidarity of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] states with the Libyan Jamahiriyah in its crisis." A Libyan official has told AL-HAYAH that the AMU states will send a joint memorandum to the Security Council "explaining the negative consequences of the economic sanctions resolution."

It has been reported that angry mass demonstrations were staged in Libya's main cities condemning the Security Council resolution. [passage omitted]

In Rabat, Libyan sources have told AL-HAYAH that there is a trend toward an early relaxation in the crisis between Libya and the Western states "on the basis of Libya's expressing willingness to hand the suspects over to a neutral party for trial." The sources added that "the disagreement is no longer over the principle of handing them over—of which Libya is now convinced—but over the place of the trial. That in itself is a significant development, bearing in mind that Libya has already implemented a major part of the Security Council resolution."

They revealed that the five AMU states will submit a joint memorandum to the Security Council pointing out the negative repercussions that the Security Council's resolution imposing economic sanctions on Libya would have for the Maghreb states and the AMU's future, and explaining the positive steps taken by Libya in response to the international community's resolutions.

The sources said that their country would welcome "a visit by the French judge assigned to interrogate the suspects at any time provided the visit does not assume a provocative nature. He could come by boat from Tunisia or anywhere else and he could himself choose the security and military organs to guard him." The sources said they would like "the visit to take place before the end of the year when the French judge retires, so that he could crown his career with a positive initiative that would defuse the Libyan-Western crisis." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders React to Israeli Deportation

'Arafat Contacts Arab Leaders

LD1712101192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today held a series of telephone contacts with a number of Arab kings and heads of state and government to discuss the latest developments relating to the Israeli criminal collective reprisals against the Palestinian nationals in the occupied territories, which threaten the entire peace process. He also discussed the need to provide urgent international protection for our people.

In this regard the brother president Abu-'Ammar had a telephone conversation with his brother King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch, who is currently in Washington.

and also with his brother, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He informed both of them about the latest developments concerning the criminal deportation of hundreds of Palestinian nationals outside the occupied territories. The brother president Abu-'Ammar stressed the need to intensify efforts with the U.S. Administration, the United Nations and the EC to put pressure on the Israeli authorities and prevent the latter from carrying out their retaliatory measures against hundreds of Palestinian nationals, as this threatens to halt the peace process altogether.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar also sent an urgent message to Jordanian Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir about this matter. Also this morning the PLO sent an urgent memorandum to the Arab League calling for urgent representations with the various official U.S. and European bodies to stop the current aggression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Moreover, since last night the Palestinian leadership has been following the latest developments inside the occupied territories to inform officials in the Arab and Islamic nations and other states in the world about the events taking place and their impact on the progress of the peace process and the risk of pushing the region toward acute tension.

Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, today met with the Russian ambassador in Tunis and informed him about the nature of the serious escalation in the region. He also entrusted him with a message for the government of his country relating to the events in the occupied territories, since his government is one of the two cosponsors of the peace conference. In their message, the Palestinian leadership warns that the implementation of the large-scale hostile plan to deport hundreds of Palestinian nationals outside their homeland and continue the detention of over 1,000 others is likely to result in halting the peace negotiations altogether. The Palestinian leadership also stressed the pressing need to move to provide international protection for our people in the occupied territories.

Urgent UNSC Meeting Requested

NC1712204892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] New York, United Nations, 17 Dec (MENA)—The PLO has requested an urgent UN Security Council [UNSC] meeting and called for a resolution forcing the Israeli occupation authorities to revoke their decision to deport some 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Palestine's representative, Nasir al-Qudwah, met with the nonaligned members of the Security Council and discussed with them Israel's deportation decision. [passage omitted]

PLO Asks Arab, UN Support

NC1712215992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2108 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Tunis, 17 Dec (MENA)—The PLO has called for an immediate meeting of the five Arab cordon states in the next few days to discuss the adoption of a unified position [words indistinct] Yitzhaq Rabin's government, which led the Middle East peace process to failure.

In a statement issued here tonight, the PLO called on the cordon states to urge the Security Council to take measures to stop these violations and ensure the return of Palestinian deportees to their homes and homeland.

The PLO stresses in the statement, issued following Israel's decision to deport more than 450 Palestinians from their homes, that the decision will lead to the discontinuation of the peace process. The statement reads that the negotiations cannot be (resumed) until after the world community forces Israel into respecting the Geneva Convention. The PLO stresses that the negotiations cannot be continued under the shadow of collective punishments, terrorism, and deportation. [passage omitted]

'Escalation' of Intifadah Urged

NC1712225492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2216 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 17 Dec (MENA)—The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] has called on the Palestinian leadership to comprehensively reassess Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations, which Israel is now using as a worn-out banner to justify its oppressive policy against the Palestinian people.

In a statement issued tonight and carried by the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, the UNLI called on all Palestinian people to react to Israel's crime of expelling some 400 Palestinians from their homeland by escalating confrontations with the occupation forces in all parts of Palestinian territory.

The UNLI asked Palestinian institutions and popular forces to hold immediate meetings with foreign consuls and with the United Nations and the Security Council to cancel the deportation decisions and underline the principle of international protection for Palestinians under occupation.

The UNLI urged the Arab and Islamic countries to shoulder their responsibilities toward the Palestinian people and to hold a meeting for their foreign ministers to discuss this serious Israeli escalation and take the necessary measures to confront it and provide means of support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under occupation.

Lebanese, Egyptian Contacts Cited

NC1812122792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1119 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, 18 Dec (MENA)—Shafiq al-Hut, PLO representative in Beirut, has said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asked him in a telephone call this morning to express to the Lebanese Government the PLO's thanks, gratitude, and support for the Lebanese position rejecting the entry of the Palestinian deportees into Lebanese territory. 'Arafat appealed to the Lebanese Government to stand fast in its position until a resolution by the Security Council, which will meet this evening in an urgent session at the request of the PLO, and until international stands regarding the deportees issue materialize, he added.

In a statement to MENA, al-Hut noted that a short while ago he conveyed 'Arafat's message to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, adding that he will meet in the coming hours with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and senior Lebanese officials to hold the necessary coordination to face Israel's aggressive act of defiance. The purpose of this coordination, he added, is to prevent the implementation of this criminal decision taken by the Rabin government in defiance of all Security Council resolutions, the Geneva Convention, and international public opinion.

Al-Hut noted that the PLO had asked Egypt to intervene and use its international political weight to seek the suspension of this decision and return the deportees to their territory. He referred to the telephone call 'Arafat made to President Husni Mubarak yesterday, adding that the PLO is in constant contact with Cairo to coordinate their stands and face any threats to the future of peace in the region that may result from the expulsion decision. He explained that the Israeli measure will lead to greater unity of action among the Palestinian factions to step up armed struggle against the Israeli occupation.

On the conditions of the 413 deportees, who are now inside the occupied border zone, al-Hut noted that the Red Cross is making the necessary arrangements to accommodate them temporarily and provide them with food and shelter until an international position materializes.

Peace Talks Linked to Deportation

LD1712235692 Tunis, Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The PLO announced its refusal to continue the Middle East peace negotiations in the light of the mass punishment and acts of repression, especially the expulsions carried out by Israel in the occupied territories.

In an official statement, the PLO described Israel's decision to expel about 400 Palestinian citizens from their homeland as an expression of Israel's determination to thwart the peace process and torpedo the negotiations. It pointed out that the Israeli Government had taken this dangerous step despite American, European, and Egyptian intervention. The statement, a copy of which has been received by Tunis-Afrique Presse tonight, linked the resumption of the negotiations with the return of those expelled and with Israel's compliance with international legality.

The United National Leadership of the Intifadah in the occupied territories, for its part, had yesterday called for the escalation of the confrontation with the Israeli occupation forces as a reply to the Israeli expulsion decision. The United National Leadership described the Israeli decision as a practical manifestation of Israel's policy for the displacement of Palestinians. In its statement, it called on the United Nations and Europe to intervene immediately and called for a meeting of Arab and Islamic Foreign Ministers.

The Leadership also called for a general strike to be staged tomorrow, Saturday, in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, that would include massive confrontations with occupation troops in their respective positions. It called on Palestinians to escalate the confrontation against Israeli forces and to declare the next 10 days as days of fire and anger. It called on popular organizations and cadres to arrange immediately for meetings with foreign consuls in Jerusalem and to contact the United Nations with the aim of having the Israeli decision revoked.

The United Leadership called on the United Nations and the states of Europe in particular to intervene immediately to stop the crimes being committed against the unarmed Palestinian people and to take the necessary measures to impose international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation by the immediate implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Talks Halted Over Deportation

TA1812221092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] We shall not return to the negotiating table until the deportees are returned to Israel. This statement was made today by Nasmi al-Ju'bah, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, at the annual convention of the Center for Peace. Our correspondent Moran Baraq has just returned from the convention.

[Begin recording] [Baraq] Three of the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks were the guests of the annual convention of the Center for Peace. One of them, Nasmi al-Ju'bah, said that the government's decision to deport 413 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists would harm the peace process.

[Al-Ju'bah] We will not resume the negotiations until the deportations are stopped and the deportees returned. From this moment, we are outside of the negotiations. There will be no negotiations until they return.

[Baraq] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, another member of the Palestinian team, said that under occupation there could be no coexistence between the occupier and the occupied.

You call it terror, but we have to fight, he said. As for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assertion that he sought to meet the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem but was refused, Abu-Zayyad said:

[Abu-Zayyad, in Eng.-fr] He must seek to meet someone at his own level. And if Mr. Rabin wants to meet a Palestinian leader on his level, he must seek a meeting with Mr. 'Arafat. [end recording]

[In a similar report by Sheli Yehimovich, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 18 December adds that "just a few weeks ago, the members of the Palestinian delegation sat at Meretz Knesset Member Yossi Sarid's home and met with the Meretz ministers and Knesset members. Today the Meretz people were the target of bitter and caustic remarks by the Palestinian delegates. They recalled that Education Minister Shulamit Aloni had promised to lie under the bulldozers if houses were torn down." They claimed that "Meretz had lent their hand to a grave decision made under the umbrella of a moderate government, and now a precedent had been set for mass deportations by later governments, who may come from the right-wing."

[The report carries remarks made by Abu-Zayyad in English in which he says: "People sympathize with anyone who is targeted by the occupation. People sympathize with the victims of occupation and not those who become allies, and supporters, and friends of the occupation. By doing what was done against Hamas, you are only giving credit to Hamas, encouraging Hamas, showing our people on the ground that it is only Hamas which is the enemy of the occupation, and that we are collaborators with the occupation, and supporters of the occupation, and that we can get nothing for our people. Those who thought that by this act they are weakening Hamas, in fact they are strengthening and encouraging Hamas and weakening us and discouraging us." The speakers also said that "the Labor party and Meretz were carrying out a transfer according to Rehav'am Ze'evi's ideology, something which not even the Likud dared to do." As for the Israeli delegation to the peace talks, Abu-Zayyad said "that man, Elyaqim Rubenstein, was offering them the same proposals made by the Likud with some trivial cosmetic changes."]

Call for Peace Process To Continue

TA1812063492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] A short time ago, reporter Tzvi Pantanowitz asked an adviser to the Palestinian team to the peace talks, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, what advice he would give to the negotiators.

[Begin recording] [Abu-'Ayyash] This is a strategy for the Palestinians. It is necessary at all levels and in all circumstances, and I would say that it is needed to work more and more for peace these days, because the only way to put an end to the circumstances here is to make peace or to reach an agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians and the Israelis and the Arabs. This is the only way to get out from this bloody situation. I would say that this is a strategy; we have to carry on the peace process under all circumstances. But the protesting and halting the peace process for a while, this is a kind of a protest and this is a kind of exerting pressure on the Israeli Government, which I hope they will review their decision and not carry out their decision.

[Pantanowitz] It is no secret that there are sharp differences between the PLO and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization on how to proceed. The Hamas is opposed to the peace process. If you go along with a suspension of the peace talks, are you not playing into the hands of the Hamas activists?

[Abu-'Ayyash] No, sir. Hamas is part of the Palestinian people. Hamas—their ideology is different. We have to know that Palestinians are not one copy all over. They have different views. But Hamas is not the leadership. Hamas is not the ones who can decide for the Palestinian people. It is part of it, like other organizations who are part of the PLO, but the ones who are taking the decisions are in Washington, and there are discussions with the Israeli teams. So I do not feel that because of that, of different ideas, we have to crush other Palestinians. [end recording]

No PNC Emergency Meeting Planned

JN1812105192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Dec 92 pp 22, 18

[By Tawfiq 'Abidi]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that currently there is no intention to hold an emergency PNC meeting or a Palestinian national conference.

Responding to a question by AL-DUSTUR, he said that holding a PNC session depends on the results of bilateral negotiations with the Israeli side. A date for the end of these negotiations cannot be determined under Israeli intransigence and obstacles aimed at preventing the achievement of any progress.

His eminence added: If the Palestinian leadership and the general secretariat deem it necessary to hold an extraordinary PNC session, then such a session will focus on discussing a Palestinian-Israeli agreement and approving or disapproving such an agreement. He said that as long as the possibility of reaching an agreement is weak, then the possibility of holding a PNC meeting is also weak.

His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih describes elaborations in this regard published by a weekly newspaper as rumor.

Algeria

Prime Minister Backs Security Forces on Terrorism

LD1712111392 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, Dec 17 (APS)—The head of government, Abdessalam Belaid, declared Wednesday that "the action of the security forces falls in the frame of the global strategy of the government which consists in struggling against terrorism and implementing a policy that takes in charge the most unfavored strata of the population by giving them back hope".

During a meeting with the police executive held Wednesday here, the head of government said that the police and armed forces as well as the active forces of the nation including youth are the guarantors of the patriotic values.

"The police forces constitute one of the forces working for the reconstruction of the country", he added.

The head of government considers that the attempts on public security are not "spontaneous" acts but are part of a "dynamics impulsed by people inside and outside the country who do not rejoice to see a state at the service of the people".

Abdessalam Belaid further said that some have thought, during these last days, that the reinforcement of democracy depended on a "diminution of the importance of the role of security forces" and have thus, neglected some factors that are necessary for the safeguard of these forces. "It is in democratic countries, he noted, that security forces are the strongest".

"The state is decided to provide the action of the security forces with the necessary efficiency and ensuring them the necessary protection by providing them with extra means", said Abdessalam Belaid, adding that the government "will take in charge the families of the victims of terrorism" and will work in order to answer the social and professional concerns of the security forces.

Moreover, Abdessalam Belaid said the government sides more than ever with the security forces in their struggle against terrorism and subversion. He also underlined that "any compromise is excluded with subversive forces which want the destruction of Algeria".

The head of government recalled that the government has elaborated, since its installation, a judicial network aimed at reinforcing the action of the struggle against terrorism: law against subversion and terrorism, new organization of the body of magistrature and setting up of special courts. Thanks to these measures, the action of justice will be carried out in a better way and the period between the indictment of a person and his condemnation will not be beyond six months .

To reinforce this struggle, Abdessalam Belaid said it is necessary to "mobilize the active forces of the country mainly youth - through initiatives that will be implemented soon - as well as "forces that constitute a support to the action of the government and the state". "The political forces must be determined and commit themselves in the action of safeguard of the country", he said.

Moreover, the head of head of government recalled that the reconstruction of the country necessitates time and a five year period is necessary to get out of the crisis. For the head of government, the economic crisis has generated a social crisis. This is why, he said, we have decided to give priority to the settlement of the daily problems of the citizens. This decision, he added, was accompanied by measures aimed at the non implementation of the "non-signed" agreement with the IMF providing for the granting of credits, a devaluation by 50 per cent of the dinar, the end of support to wide consumption products and the filing of petitions of companies showing a deficit.

At the end of his allocution, the head of government paid homage to members of the security forces who have been victims of terrorism and hailed the sacrifices they are making for the maintaining of order and the defence of the institutions of the country.

Authorities Detain, Indict 25 Armed Islamists

LD1512232092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] In Ouargla an armed group consisting of 25 persons belonging to the Armed Islamic Movement were detained recently. They were brought before the military court in Ouargla on Monday and Tuesday. The military public prosecutor at the court made clear that the charges against the members of the gangs are in particular forming armed gangs, distributing incitement documents, sabotage and committing offenses against the security of the state. He also pointed out that a significant quantity of weapons was captured, including automatic handguns, rifles, explosives, ammunition, and other sabotage devices.

Security Services Arrest 'Terrorist' Elements

LD1712143092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Setif Province security services have dispersed a terrorist group which was involved in sabotage operations against public utilities and which was planning to assassinate police officials. The provincial security services report that this group's recent sabotage operations included setting fire to the sports shoes plant and the Algerian Airlines agency in Setif, in addition to the destruction of a number of high tension electricity power lines on the outskirts of Setif. The same sources report that plans found in the group's possession show that it was intending to assassinate a number of national security officials and citizens in the city. The elimination

of this group, whose members have admitted the charges against them, has enabled the Setif Province security services to recover a considerable amount of military ammunition and weapons, such as a MAT-49 machine guns, a French automatic pistol, a 9mm pistol, a Beretta automatic pistol, and another automatic pistol of Spanish make. They also recovered a considerable amount of ammunition—an estimated 700 bullets of various calibers—and pamphlets inciting violence. The general prosecution at Setif court, before which members of the group stood the day before yesterday, has ordered them all to be put under preventative detention on charges of forming an armed group with the aim of assassinations and sabotage, organizing a terrorist group to disturb public security, the illegal possession and sale of military weapons, attempting to assassinate a number of security men while discharging their duties, and sabotaging public utilities. The Setif Province security services stated that the investigations will continue until the associated cells of this group are dismantled.

Meanwhile, APS reports that the Batna Province security services have arrested two people accused of detonating a number of locally made bombs in the province.

Council Defines Rules for Grants To The Press

LD1612102992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Higher Information Council has defined the regulations for the distribution of the state's potential contribution to the printed press. Generally, the basic criteria which the Higher Information Council has drawn up for the distribution of this potential contribution are linked to the sales ratio, the revenue share resulting from advertising turnover, and the development of national language and culture.

The decision stipulates that these contributions are only awarded to institutions which show a financial deficit, whose sales in each edition falls below 150,000 copies, or whose advertising revenue falls below 30 percent of annual turnover. Moreover, the decision affirms that these contributions must be spent on the purposes for which they are granted, otherwise the papers will be required to repay all the granted sum, or part of it at the risk of a potential judicial follow up.

Egypt

Iran, Sudan Said Planning 'Trap' for U.S. in Somalia

NC1812101192 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 14 Dec 92 pp 12-13

[Report by Yusuf al-Sharif]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration's enthusiasm for military intervention in Somalia raises many questions and doubts. The humanitarian motives—to save the Somalis from the scourge of hunger, tribal wars, and gangs looting international relief aid, especially after the failure of the UN mission there—are known and declared. But skepticism over the political intentions and strategic objectives of the operation remains. The U.S. decision is still shrouded with mystery, doubts, and various interpretations. [passage omitted]

Sudan and Iran explicitly opposed the U.S. intervention in Somalia. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Military Council, termed the UN decision as "unjust, a return of old colonialism to the region, and a conspiracy to justify interference in Sudan's internal affairs and abort the country's successes and achievements." [passage omitted]

Observers noted that as soon as the Pentagon expressed readiness to send U.S. troops—with the agreement of President-elect Bill Clinton—a ranking Iranian delegation headed by Judiciary Head Mohammad Yazdi arrived in Khartoum. The delegation consisted of 22 members representing the intelligence, security and military services, economic experts, and diplomats. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources in Khartoum disclosed that Yazdi and Sudanese Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi agreed to hold an international Islamic conference in the Sudanese capital for 19 fundamentalist groups that are politically, ideologically, and financially linked with the Islamic revolution in Iran. [passage omitted]

Recently the Sudanese Islamic Front set up a committee headed by the front's second in command, 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, and including Sudanese and Iranian leaders in charge of security agencies and spreading the call of Islam. The committee will follow developments in the American military intervention in Somalia and draft plans to resist it through the Somali "Islamic Union" [al-ittihad al- islami] organization, which is supervised and financed by Sudan and Iran, and the "Somali Revolutionary Guard", which is supervised by Iranian intelligence officer 'Ali Menshawi. The purpose is to turn Somalia into a trap and a quagmire for the U.S. forces through a guerrilla war against them. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Camp Allegedly for 'Extremist' Use

NC1812081492 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1903 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo state that the Sudanese regime allocated the 'Arusah area in east Sudan on the Red Sea as a headquarters to assemble various extremist Egyptian, Tunisian, Algerian, and Palestinian groups along with Iranian experts. There are approximately 250 extremists in this area.

The Sudanese regime banished all civilians from the area—saying it is a prohibited military zone—to ensure total secrecy about the activities inside the camp. These sources stressed that the airport quarter in Khartoum has been designated to receive Arab groups returning from

Afghanistan. This quarter is the center of the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command.

Jordanian Smuggling Said Linked to Terrorism

NC1812103092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 92 p 12

[From Muhammad al-Hawayan's "A Word of Love" column]

[Excerpts] Egyptian customs officials have foiled a smuggling attempt by the Jordanian military attache, who tried to smuggle 60 VCR's and 20 large-screen color televisions into the country, importing them from Jeddah on a Saudi plane to avoid suspicion. The merchandise is worth 400,000 pounds [$130,000] and the customs duty was estimated at one million pounds [$330,000].

Is this the end of the story of just the beginning? A larger investigation and a careful look at the issue are required. There must be more to this incident than meets the eye. It is common knowledge that Jordan still works with Saddam and that Saddam remains a source of terror. The embassies of the regimes that sided with Saddam would possibly work for him in Egypt, just as Communist embassies in Cairo worked for Moscow in the past, leaving Moscow to appear innocent of involvement in their acts. In the past the Egyptians uncovered many crimes that the Embassies of Bulgaria, Cuba, and South Yemen committed on behalf of the Soviet Union.

It is conceivable that the revenue from selling the merchandise in Egypt would be used to finance terror. There are insane terrorists in Egypt who would shoot for 50 pounds [$17], as happened in Qina.

Egypt rightfully responded to the invasion of Kuwait. Because of that it became a target of wrongdoing and conspiracies. [passage omitted]

As we look for the sources financing terror in Egypt we should remember that terror continually changes its methods. Terror is carried out by gangs that change their operations with time. As soon as the police identify and terminate one method, the gangs find another. Crime is a continuous struggle, a battle of wits between police and gangs. I imagine that the smuggling attempt by the Jordanian military attache may be a method of financing terror in Egypt. Egypt has not changed its principles and principles are costly.

We should not be tempted to assume that every act in Egypt that the government finds unappealing is financed from abroad. Such a position would mean we are a nation of hirelings. We cannot say that the success of the Muslim brothers in elections to their professional union was a result of bribery. This is an ugly accusation by Egyptian intellectuals. Similarly, we cannot conclude that every woman who wears the veil has been paid to do so. This would involve the ridiculous assumption that we no longer have a moral conscience, only financial greed. There was a time when we accused the communists of being on Moscow's payroll. In turn they accused us of being on America's. The verbal exchange was humiliating and we rightly stopped it.

Israeli Positions at Negotiations Viewed

NC1612222292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2046 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—The Cairo daily AL-AKHBAR states that Israel's leaders are trying to get through negotiations what they know they will never get by armed force. The paper writes that lands seized by Israel by force will not be recognized by any UN members, no matter how strong their relations with Tel Aviv may be.

In its 17 December editorial, AL-AKHBAR writes that this is the essential fact that has governed relations between Arabs and Israel in the past and present and will continue to govern them in the future. It is the fact that the leaders of the Jewish state should realize at all times, the paper writes.

AL-AKHBAR derives the evidence to this from the United States, Israel's biggest ally since it was established, which refuses to recognize Israel's right to annex any part of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or Golan Heights. The paper adds that the United States is constantly announcing that the future of Jerusalem should be decided through international negotiations.

The paper concludes that all the hard-line positions adopted by the Israeli delegation to the ongoing negotiations in Washington will not change the final result, no matter how long these talks will take.

Imbabah 'Terrorist' Leader To Be Interrogated

NC1712153592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Shadiyah al-Sayyid and Muhammad Dawlt]

[Excerpts] The Public Prosecutor's Office yesterday remanded Jabir Ahmad Muhammad, alias "Shaykh Jabir", leader of the Imbabah terrorists, for 15 days of interrogation. It accused him of forming and leading a terrorist organization that aims to encroach on citizens' personal liberties by force. The Prosecutor's Office also ordered 11 youths to be held for 15 days on charges of helping Shaykh Jabir form an illegal and terrorist organization that aims to disrupt public order and threaten the homeland's security. The youths are also charged with possessing explosives, attempting to murder certain video rental shop owners, and causing damage to property.

Interrogations were conducted by Muhammad al-Sa'dani, director of Imbabah's Prosecutor's Office, and Deputy Prosecutors Tariq al-Buhayri, Ahmad Hamam, and Muhammad Abu-Zayd under the supervision of

Counselor Nayyir 'Uthman, northern al-Jizah's public prosecutor. The Prosecutor's Office served arrest warrants for 16 fugitive suspects belonging to Shaykh Jabir's organizations.

The remand order includes Muhammad Abu-Bakr, student, 17; Sa'id Shihatah, student, 15; Ahmad Fathi Marzuq 'Abd-al-Latif, holder of a business diploma, 19; Khalid Bakri, holder of a business bachelor's degree, 23; Sami Bakri, student, 18; Muhammad Hamidu, clerk; 'Ali Ibrahim Mursi, technician, 17; Mustafa Ahmad al-Sayyid, plumber, 17; Bahr' Ibrahim Shihatah, house painter, 22; Ahmad al-Sayyid Salamah, holder of a business diploma, 17; and Hatim 'Abd-al-Hafiz, student, 17.

Shaykh Jabir, leader of the terrorist groups in Imbabah, yesterday confessed that he joined extremist groups in 1985. He admitted to manufacturing bombs and other explosives. He denied participating in the attack on a police vehicle in which Captain Muhsin 'Irfan and Private Subhi 'Ali Ibrahim were injured, saying he was not in Imbabah when this assault occurred. The terrorist confessed that he is the leader of the group's security wing but denied knowledge of the identities of the leaders of the other wings or the organization's members. The terrorist denied using bombs in acts of sabotage. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prosecutor Tariq al-Buhayri yesterday listened to the confessions of 'Ali Ibrahim Muhammad, 23, clerk, who admitted to joining the organization one year ago. He said he was in charge of executive matters in the group and admitted to setting video rental shops in Imbabah on fire. He denied participating in the assault on the police captain and private. [passage omitted]

[In a related report, Cairo AL-WAFD on page 8 of the same issue reports: "Al-Qalyubiyah security forces yesterday arrested one of Shaykh Jabir's aides in al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah. It was discovered that he had been using a false name. Twenty-eight other extremist fugitives from Imbabah and Bulaq al-Dakrur were also arrested and 15 automatic rifles and three pistols were also seized. The 28 men have been wanted by the police for posing a threat to state security. They are believed to be involved in protection rackets. The extremists said they escaped from their homes during the campaign launched by the al-Jizah Security Department. Major General Usamah Dubbus, assistant interior minister and al-Qalyubiyah's security director, has ordered an increase in the number of police checkpoints in Shubra al-Khaymah, al-Qanatir, and al-Khankah areas to apprehend extremists who had escaped the police dragnet in Imbabah and Bulaq al-Dakrur. A force led by Maj. Gen. Fu'ad Mansur, deputy director of security, Brig. Gen. Muhammad al-Dhahabi, director of the police detective force, Brig. Gen. Muhammad al-Imam, director of the Criminal Investigation Department, and Brig. Gen. Ahmad Shukri, director of the Criminal Investigation branch in al-Qalyubiyah, arrested the extremist 'Abd-al-Fattah Husayn as he disembarked from a ferry in al-Qanatir. Husayn, who had a motorcycle with him, is believed to be one of Shaykh Jabir's aides. He was found carrying a forged identification card under the name of Husayn 'Abd-al-Jawwad and an automatic rifle and a pistol."]

Governor Orders Suspension of Liquor Licenses

NC1812111492 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Muhammad al-Abnudi]

[Text] Qina Governor Major General Yahya al-Buhnasawi has given strict instructions to city and rural council heads and executive authorities to suspend the renewal of licenses to the governorate's stores selling liquor and to give store owners until January to change their business.

The instructions followed complaints from the public, conveyed by members of the governorate's popular local council, about the harm caused by youngsters drinking alcohol and the ease with which it is obtained. The governor, responding to these complaints, issued the instruction.

The Governorates of Port Said, al-Daqahliyah, Bani Suwayf, Ismailia, and Damietta had already decided to suspend the licenses of stores that sell and serve alcohol and told them to change their activities into legitimate businesses of benefit to the public.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students 18 Dec

LD1812115492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Dec—The brother of the great Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, stressed that North Africa is a region without a future and that it was threatened by a disaster due to the continuing decline in water resources and the continuing rise in population.

He described the region as a salt island squeezed between the sea and the desert. He said that we have to rethink our existence in the region and benefit from the resources of the greater Arab homeland.

At a meeting with masses of students in the towns of Hun and al- Jufrah, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi added: We must not be crammed in a region where life has no future. He said life was possible in the region in the past, when the population and its needs were limited. In that context, he asked what life would be like in the region where the population was rising and water resources were declining.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed the need to benefit from the resources of the greater Arab homeland. He said that the homeland belonged to us all and that the freedom of movement, residence, ownership, and work

in it had to be guaranteed for every Arab citizen, because the Arab homeland is our home and we are all sons of the same family.

The leader of the revolution said that Libya was open to all Arabs and that they had the right of ownership, movement, work, and residence in it. In exchange, Libyans must benefit from the resources of the greater Arab homeland and its waters and use their resources to build a life it ... that is solidarity and integration.

He stressed that oil could not be relied on in forging the future of a nation. [passages indistinct]

The brother leader of the revolution stressed the depth of the historical and fraternal relations between Libya and Chad. He said, the Arab Libyan people and the Chadian people constitute an extension of each other, and, despite the plots of the enemies, they will shake hands and hug each other in the end.

He made it clear that the lackeys who tried to destroy this relation, to sacrifice this fraternity, and challenge this historical reality have ended up in failure and defeat because the unity between the Libyan people and the Chadian people in terms of land, religion, and race, is stronger than the plots of colonialism and the deeds of the lackeys.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed the need for the Chadian citizen to benefit from the Libyan and the Libyan citizen from the Chadian, emphasizing that Libyan oil is the property of all Libyans and Chadians and that Chadian water is also the property of all Libyans and Chadians, and that any conspiracy by the colonialists to hinder that will end up in failure and will be incapable of defeating the truth.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that whatever happens on Libyan soil happens because of the will of its free people and that if there is any spot that is truly liberated, it is the Libyan soil.

At his meeting with the masses of students in the cities of Hun and al-Jufrah, he said that the embargo, the challenges, and the plots to which the Jamahiriyah is exposed aim to defeat and subjugate the free will in Libya.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah is the country where true direct democracy and people's authority are in operation through people's congresses that decide and people's committees that implement in the communes that are spread all over the Great Jamahiriyah, and where authority, wealth, and arms are the property of all Libyans.

Pan-Arab Congress Urges Lifting of UN Sanctions

LD1312202592 Tripoli JANA in English 1759 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun [December] 13, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Pan Arab People's Congresses today delivered the following letter to the UN delegate to the Great Jamahiriyah for the attention of the UN secretary general: Dr. Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations, after greetings, the General Pan Arab Congress, which embraces all Arabs living in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, would like to appeal to you urging you to intervene immediately and use your good offices within the UN Security Council especially amongst the permanent members so as to lift the ban imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of Resolution 748. We, like our brotherly Libyan Arab people, are suffering hardship as a result of this resolution considering that millions of Arabs are working in Libya and their livelihood is linked to that of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

These Arabs, more than others, are suffering from this unfair ban when they leave the country or return to their jobs. Thousands of these Arabs need to travel abroad for medical treatment at European clinics, but the ban prevents them from doing so hence they are facing the inevitable death and other complications. This tragedy will inflict colossal losses and hardship on humanity and the credibility of the international organisation in addition to the loss of legal and humane sacred values in a sea of tyranny of aggressive force imposed by the parties to the dispute on the weaker party as the victim of colonial schemes.

Members of the General Pan Arab Congress urge you to fulfill your serious role through your position as a defender of the principles of the United Nations and innocent peoples who are subjected to unjustified onslaught by the more powerful.

We request you to submit our demand through your influential good offices to the Security Council so as to lift the ban and end the embargo imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah hence protect millions of people from the threat of disease and starvation for it is inconceivable for the UN principles to become the prisoner of the decision of the major forces and an instrument in their hand to crush weaker nations in pursuit of powermania. With the greetings of the General Pan Arab Congress.

Import Restrictions Lifted on Goods of Arab Origin

LD1512211992 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A source in the General People's Committee for Planning, Commerce and Finance announced that all products of Arab origin are now exempt from any import restrictions in Libya on conditions that they conform with the specified standards, health, veterinary and agricultural quarantine requirements endorsed by the currently applied regulations.

The source added in a statement to JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY that in accordance with Article 20, 1992 in respect of exemptions for goods of Arab origin

from import restrictions which was drafted by the General People's Congress, this does not apply to import of the items monopolised and restricted goods, in accordance with the rules and legislations of the General People's Committee as well as other banned imports for any reason.

Sudan

U.S. Official Says Human Rights Decision Unjust

EA1712130092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1624 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 16th Dec (SUNA)—U.S. Congressman, Mr Mervyn Dymally, has described the recent decision by [U.S.] Congress [criticising] Sudan for alleged human rights violations as [an] unjust resolution because it had neglected the great achievements and positive steps taken by the government of Sudan during the last three years.

Mr Dymally, in a letter he sent to state minister for presidential affairs, Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, said he rejected a request to table the draft of the decision before the Congress because he believed that the decision was unjust and biased, saying that it had laid all the responsibility on the Sudanese Government and neglected the atrocities committed by the outlaws' [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] movement in the south.

Mr Dymally visited Sudan last August in his capacity as chairman of the Congress's sub-committee for African affairs, a matter that allowed him to see the truth.

Al-Mahdi Denies Statements on Egypt, Iran

PM1712125092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahdi: ; Reject Extremism; I Am Not a Defense Lawyer for the Current Sudanese Regime"]

[Excerpt] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Sudanese Ummah Party, has denied statements attributed to him on the situation in Egypt and Sudanese-Iranian relations. He said that he has always maintained that Islam is a religion of moderation, tolerance, and compromise, and has always warned against extremism and violence.

Al-Mahdi condemned the way his statements, carried by AFP three days ago, were portrayed as if their aim was incitement not objectivity. He added that his words were exploited to give the impression that he was defending the current Sudanese regime and to drive a wedge between him and Egypt.

In his statement yesterday, al-Mahdi said: I have been quoted as saying such things as "the problems the Egyptian Government is having with its Islamists stem from Egypt not from abroad." That is an inadequate and one-sided interpretation contrary to my known and confirmed views about moderation in Islam and about the signs of extremism. I have frequently written about the dangers of extremism and violence and I have warned about the isolationist nature of some Islamic movements.

He added: "The statement attributed to me regarding the terrorist charges made against the present regime in Sudan and about the regime's relations with Iran, were presented in such a way as to portray me as a defense lawyer for the present government. That is neither my position nor my task. The answer to such charges should come from government officials not from a person who is under surveillance and cannot move freely in his own country."

In conclusion, he said that "those who read what I say and write know my position well and they can detect the distortions, made wittingly or unwittingly, of a statement made here or there. This has happened frequently."

AFP had quoted al-Mahdi as saying that he did not believe the charages that the Sudanese authorities supported terrorism, and that the regime was too weak and too confused to possess means of exporting its revolution.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party issued a statement yesterday on the recent UN resolution condemning human rights violations in Sudan. The statement supported the resolution and praised the states which voted for it. Enumerating the human rights violations in Sudan, it said that "the al-Turabi front's violations of human rights are countless. These and other practices have confirmed that nature of that regime to the Sudanese people."

The statement appealed to the opposition forces and the regional and international organizations and establishments to continue to expose human rights violations and to help in "saving Sudan and Sudanese society from this tribulation." [passage omitted]

Visiting Iraqi Minister Signs Oil Cooperation Accord

JN1312183292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Dec (INA)—Iraq and Sudan today signed a joint cooperation agreement on oil exploration and industry.

The agreement, which was signed by Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti and Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Wahhab, stipulate that the two countries exchange expertise and information related to oil investment and industry. Under the terms of the agreement, Iraq will send its experts in these

areas to Sudan to work in Sudanese institutions and will also train Sudanese cadres at Iraqi oil industry establishments.

The signing of the agreement crowned three days of talks between the two sides on cooperation in the oil industry.

Meets RCC Official

EA1312194392 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, yesterday at his office discussed with Mr. Usamah 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hiti, the Iraqi oil minister, currently visiting the country, spheres of cooperation between the two brotherly countries and ways of developing them. The two sides reviewed issues of common interest and the threats facing the Islamic and Arab nations. The meeting also stressed the need for joint efforts and the call for Arab-Islamic solidarity to face the conspiracies and hostility towards the Islamic nation.

During the meeting, Major General Zubayr acquainted himself with conditions in brotherly Iraq and the efforts to rehabilitate the cities that were destroyed during the war. The Iraqi minister affirmed the cohesion of the internal front and the unity of the Iraqi ranks.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives, Meets al-Bashir 15 Dec

EA1512212692 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Dec (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] Chairman Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, and Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, held a meeting at the General Command here on Tuesday [15 December] and discussed the developments of the Palestinian problem and current Arab issues. In a press statement following the meeting, 'Arafat said that the talks dealt with the developments of the Palestinian issue and the intifadah (uprising) of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, affirming that the struggle would continue till the liberation of the holy Quds [Jerusalem].

'Arafat added that he briefed al-Bashir on the progress of Washington talks on Peace which, he said, reached a deadlock due to the stubbornness of Israel and the biased stance of the American administration in favour of Israel. He said that the meeting also tackled all issues concerning Arab unity and the challenges facing it.

'Arafat arrived here on Tuesday morning and he was received at Khartoum Airport by member of the RCC, Maj-Gen Tijani Adam al-Tahir.

In a press statement upon arrival, 'Arafat said his visit came in the framework of evaluating the situations in the Arab nation and the developments of the Palestinian problem, particularly the continuous intifadah and the jihad of the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli iron grip and state terrorism. 'Arafat said that the Palestinians have many options in their struggle at all arenas.

Ends Visit, Leaves

EA1612153192 Khartoum SUNA in French 0930 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] (SUNA)—The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, left Khartoum on 15 December after a brief visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Shortly before his departure, Mr. 'Arafat said in a press statement that he had met with Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the People's Arab and Islamic Congress, on issues concerning the Arab and Islamic nations and the dangers facing the Palestinian issue and the cause of Jerusalem.

Assembly Denounces U.S. 'Intervention' in Somalia

JN1712212792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly has appealed to Arab and friendly parliaments to denounce the U.S. intervention in Somalia and to demand the departure of foreign troops from its territory. In a statement issued today regarding UN Security Council Resolution No. 794 on dispatching troops to Somalia, the assembly said that observing events and news, the world has realized that the UN troops are in fact U.S. troops who entered Somalia as occupiers in the name of international legitimacy. With a force totaling 30,000 troops with their military equipment and weapons, this in effect means a U.S. occupation and domination of this part of the world. This would enable the United States to control the Horn of Africa, which overlooks entrances to the Red Sea and its extensions toward the Indian Ocean.

The statement asks why the United States does not show the same zeal toward the bloody events and ferocious fighting in Bosnia- Herzegovina, the suffering of Muslims there, and the starvation, displacement, and mass deportation of thousands to neighboring countries.

The statement says that the National Assembly has followed the serious developments that have been experienced by fraternal Somalia and its people, especially since Iraq extended to Somalia huge economic aid during the seventies and eighties, inspired by a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among peoples and countries, especially the developing ones.

The statement says that proceeding from the same humanitarian basis and a sense of international responsibility, and despite the suffering of its people, Iraq recently proposed to the UN Security Council that if it lifts the siege, it would agree to export a quantity of oil worth $4 billion, part of which would be used to aid the Somali and other peoples.

The statement adds that the National Assembly would like to draw the attention of Arab and friendly parliaments to these facts and to ask them to denounce this step, which will increase the suffering of the Somali people, deepen disarray and divisions, and bring foreign U.S. troops to its territory to achieve U.S. interests and objectives in this vital and strategic part of the Horn of Africa.

The Assembly also appealed to Arab parliaments to demand the departure of these troops from Somalia soon and to leave the Somalis to reach by themselves national solutions to their problems and to adhere to their national unity to reach a national reconciliation that would help them achieve peace and stability and move toward building their country and end the suffering of their people away from any foreign interference or influence.

Regime Forces Reportedly Surround, Search Mosul

LD1712204792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The military forces of the Iraqi regime have surrounded the city of Mosul and cut off entry to and exit from the city. According to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], the Iraqi regime forces have started searching people's homes under the pretext of looking for weapons.

UN Trucks Explode En Route to Turkey

NC1712182092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Five UN trucks exploded yesterday evening on their way back to Turkey in the Gali Zarka area in Duhok Governorate. Sources said that the five trucks exploded after unloading their cargoes in Irbil and driving along the Mosul Highway to Turkey. The drivers of the trucks said that Iraqi regime forces detained them on arrival at [place-name indistinct]. The Iraqi forces kept them in an Iraqi post for one hour and then released them.

According to reports from the (?Bardisan) area, several other trucks exploded at the Mosul-Duhuk-Zakhu road intersection, but there was no loss of life.

Sudanese Delegation Arrives for Joint Meetings

JN1412195592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a Sudanese delegation to take part in meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Sudanese Committee, due to begin in Baghdad tomorrow.

During its meetings, the committee will discuss the ties of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them in the agricultural, industrial, and economic spheres in the interest of the two fraternal states.

Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn and Industry and Minerals Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di were on hand to welcome the fraternal Sudanese delegation upon arrival.

The Sudanese delegation is made up of Industry Minister Taj al-Sirr Mustafa; Abu-al-Qasim Shum, minister of state for agriculture, natural resources, and animal wealth [title as heard]; and several other officials.

Committee Meetings Begin

JN1512162092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The second session of the Iraqi-Sudanese Joint Committee began today. Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn, who is leading the Iraqi side to the committee

meetings, has said the convening of this session is significant as it comes as extraordinary and difficult circumstances face the two fraternal countries, which are the result of hostile actions and political and economic pressures by the imperialist and colonialist countries, led by the United States.

He said the meeting reflects a determination by the two countries' peoples and leaderships to continue their steadfastness and challenge, and to face the colonialist policies. The minister also stressed Iraq's concern, under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, to implement the agreements and protocols signed in the past and to find new fields of cooperation according to the resources available in both countries [passage omitted]

Delegation Meets With Saddam

JN1612171992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, today received the head and members of the fraternal Sudanese side to the Joint Iraqi-Sudanese Committee meetings. They are Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi; Industry Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa; retired Staff Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, minister of state for defense; and Dr. Abu-al-Qasim Ahmad Shamma, minister of state for agricultural affairs.

The fraternal delegation relayed to the leader president, may God protect him, the greetings of his brother President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and his best wishes of success to the Iraqi people and leadership.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn and fighter Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1612202792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening met with the fraternal Sudanese ministerial delegation led by Finance and Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi. The delegation is made up of Industry Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa; Dr. Abu-al-Qasim Shamma, minister of state for agricultural affairs; and ambassador Tariq Mustafa, head of the Arab Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, they reviewed the special fraternal ties between Iraq and Sudan and the means of enhancing them in the interest of the two fraternal countries and peoples to bolster their cooperation so that they may confront the schemes hatched by hegemonic and colonialist powers, which are endeavoring to undermine the two countries under the guise of upholding human rights.

The foreign minister explained the aspects of bilateral cooperation between the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, which is in the interest of the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

For his part, the head of the fraternal Sudanese delegation affirmed Sudan's support for Iraq in its struggle against the forces of imperialist hegemony as well as its admiration of the great renaissance Iraq has achieved in the field of reconstruction under leader President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Ramadan

JN1712121592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, today received the head and members of the Sudanese delegation to the meetings of the Iraqi-Sudanese Joint Committee: 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning; Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, minister of industry; and Dr. Abu-al- Qasim Shamma, minister of state for agricultural affairs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the resumption of the Iraqi-Sudanese Joint Committee's meetings under the blockade confirms that the determination of the honorable officials who believe in their nation's principles and energies is much greater than all methods of blockade and aggression. He also asserted that the enemies cannot obstruct the determination of the nation's sons and their concern to continue the march of progress, construction, and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

JN1712175592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today received the head and members of the Sudanese side to the joint Sudanese-Iraqi committee. They are 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning; Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, minister of industry; and Dr. Abu-al-Qasim Shamma, minister of state for agricultural affairs.

During the meeting, the prime minister stated his appreciation for fraternal Sudan's solidarity with Iraq during

its confrontation of U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and the unjust blockade imposed on it. The prime minister wished the Sudanese people and their leadership further progress and prosperity. He stressed Iraq's constant eagerness to promote relations between the two fraternal countries in the service of their joint interest and the Arab nation's objectives.

Sudanese Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi expressed happiness with visiting Iraq under the current circumstances. Stressing the profound relations binding the two fraternal peoples, Hamdi indicated that what Sudan is currently providing Iraq with is only part of what Iraq has offered the Sudanese people and Arab nation.

During the meeting, discussions dealt relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them.

The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn, the head of the secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan, and the Sudanese ambassador to Iraq.

Court Allows Deportations; Lebanon Bars Entrance

Judges Continue to Consult

TA1712142092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] About 35 of the prospective deportees were taken off the buses [in which they were awaiting the High Court of Justice's ruling], and it was decided to return them to the Qezi'ot jail following an additional check. This has been learned by our correspondent Yo'av Aviv. The other prospective deportees continue to sit in the buses in the Metzilla area, and apparently have no idea about the legal proceedings under way on their matter.

The High Court of Justice judges left for consultations after they heard all parties concerned in the deportation order against the 418 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members. The last to appear in court was Attorney General Yosef Harish who reinforced the testimony by the chief of staff. Appearing before the judges earlier were representatives of the Civil Rights Association and the prospective deportees' attorneys.

Attorney General Harish told our correspondent Gil Litman that he made it clear to the judges that reference is to a temporary removal, a mini-deportation, as he defined it, of people who did not only incite to murder but also to slaughter. The attorney general said he had undertaken that no additional deportation order will be issued against these people at the end of two years. Asked why State Attorney Dorit Beinish did not appear for the hearing of the appeal, Mr. Harish answered: Why do you not ask her?

High Court Allows Deportations

TA1712170292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1650 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Ro'i Gronowald from the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The High Court of Justice has allowed the state to deport the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who were detained. The deportation is made possible after the interim injunction issued last night was canceled by a vote of five judges to two, with Justices Or and Barag in the minority. At the same time, the court ruled that there is an interim injunction, which means that the state will have to explain why it made this decision. In practice, however, the deportation can be carried out. The buses can start to drive up to the northern border.

Deportation Begins 'Immediately'

TA1712171692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The defense establishment received the High Court ruling with satisfaction and will immediately start the deportation procedures. Sources at the defense establishment again stressed that the deportees are inciters and members of extremist organizations which carried out terrorist operations against civilians, soldiers, and the peace process, correspondent Karmela Menashe reports.

'Prominent' Deportees Named

TA1712201292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Studio discussion between anchor Daniyel Pe'er and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Excerpt] [Pe'er] The 386 deportees are somewhat anonymous. Could you give us some details about the men in this group?

[Ya'ari] Yes. First, the characteristics of the people making up the group: They are considered people who incite violent activity; they are connected with what is referred to as the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] infrastructure, administrative activity of charity organizations and mosques, and financing on various levels and through various channels. Eliminated from this list were men who have already been tried and, to the best of my knowledge, it includes all the top echelons of those associated with the Islamic movements in the territories.

With your permission, allow me to read out some names: Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi from Nablus is a preacher at the al-Aqsa Mosque; he lives in Tulkarm and is well known in the territories.

An important merchant from Nablus, Subhi al-'Anabtawi, is well known in the region and is one of the most prominent activists of the Islamic movements.

Husayn Abu-Kuwayt comes from the West Bank. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar from the Gaza Strip, a physician who had already been held in administrative detention and is one of the most prominent and overt Hamas activists. Also, there is Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi from Khan Yunus, also a graduate of an administrative detention in Qezi'ot. Such men are among those deported.

As I said before, people who have been tried were taken off the list, leaving suspects of violent military activity who have not yet been brought to trial and others of the type I have just described. In fact, this move shaves off the entire leadership. [passage omitted]

30 More Palestinians Deported

NC1712220592 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 17 (AFP)—Israel late Thursday expelled another 30 Palestinian fundamentalist suspects only hours after the mass deportation of 383 to Lebanon, sources close to the army reported. The new deportees were ferried by army helicopters to southern Lebanon, the sources said.

Convoy Heads for South Lebanon

NC1712181092 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Metulla, Israel, Dec 17 (AFP)—A convoy of 22 buses carrying some 400 expelled Palestinian fundamentalists left this border town for south Lebanon on Thursday, an AFP photographer reported.

Headlights blazing and flanked by military police cars the buses headed into the night through torrential rain towards Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Deportees Cross Into Lebanon

TA1712211692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The first deportees have crossed from the security zone in south Lebanon into Lebanese territory. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'av Aviv. A UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman has said that parts of the convoy crossed UN roadblocks in the security zone.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Radio Lebanon has reported that a scuffle between UNIFIL and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers took place at one of the checkpoints. The UNIFIL spokesman, however, denied this report.

Standoff as Lebanon Blocks Trucks

TA1812053292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpt] All the deportees, more than 400 people, have been transferred north of the security zone in trucks bearing Lebanese license plates. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has just reported that the trucks were stopped at a Lebanese Army roadblock several hundred meters north of the Zammarayya border crossing, and the soldiers manning the roadblock did not allow them to continue. On the opposite side, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers standing at the Zammarayya border crossing are not allowing the trucks to return. An army of reporters is standing in between and watching the scene. [passage omitted]

Deportees Trapped on Border

TA1812081992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Efforts by representatives of the deportees to convince Lebanese Army soldiers to allow them to move north of the security zone have failed. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that there is no change in the area and that Lebanese Army soldiers are preventing the deportees who disembarked from the trucks from continuing to march northward.

Security sources have denied reports by foreign correspondents on an incident in which the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] fired over the heads of the deportees. At the same time, it was made clear that the IDF will not allow their return southward.

Police Prepare for Violent Response to Expulsion

IDF on 'High Alert'

TA1812064592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces in the territories are on a high state of alert out of fear of disturbances. Senior Army elements said that units have been reinforced and action has been taken to prevent residents in the territories from increasing ferment. The IDF units in the security zone and on the northern border have also been placed on high alert to forestall any attempt by the terrorists in southern Lebanon to act against the IDF and Israel.

The IDF has emphasized that the deportation was a large-scale logistic operation which was planned and carried out on a very short timetable and which proceeded smoothly. The possibility of terrorist acts inside Lebanon was taken into account in the planning of the operation. The operation was secured by hundreds of soldiers, policemen, border policemen, and Shin Bet elements. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the IDF is considering giving the families of the deportees a monthly payment equivalent to the cost of holding a deportee in a lockup facility inside the State of Israel. The money would be slated for the deportees themselves and would be transferred to them through the Red Cross or another international organization. It would allow the deportees to subsist while they are outside the country.

Police Urge Caution

TA1812114092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The police remain on increased alert, and policemen will work 12-hour shifts until early next week at least. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that in a special debate summoned by Inspector General Terner this morning, it was decided to adopt several measures intended to prevent terrorist acts and disturbances in reaction to the expulsion of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Participating in the debate were the heads of the Operations and Patrol Department, the Criminal Investigations Department, and Police Intelligence, as well as other officers. It was also decided to reinforce roadblocks and patrols, particularly along the Green Line border and in East Jerusalem. The forces will be aided by the two helicopters which were put into operation recently. At the same time, the police

request that the public exercise special caution with regard to suspicious packages and postal material as Christmas approaches.

General Strike in Ramallah, Nablus

TA1712180192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured by a stone thrown at his car near Jericho this afternoon.

A general strike was called for in Ramallah and Nablus to protest the deportations. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the closure imposed on the territories is still in effect. Most of the Gaza Strip residents are under curfew.

Commercial Strike in West Bank

TA1812115892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Most of the Gaza Strip remains under curfew, and the closure order is still in effect throughout all the territories. This morning a commercial strike was declared in most of Judaea and Samaria cities in protest over the deportation. Meanwhile, no list has been released of the 418 deported Islamic activists. The Betzelem human rights watch group says it was contacted by dozens of residents of the territories this morning who hoped to learn about detained relatives. Betzelem strongly protested the failure to inform families about deported relatives. Betzelem Director Yizhar Bar accused the security establishment of needlessly increasing the suffering of the families. Security forces yesterday sealed the home of 'Adnan Affandi, a resident of the al-Dubayshah refugee camp. He was captured last May after stabbing two Jewish teenagers near the Mahane Yehuda Market, in Jerusalem. Passersby chased him into a parking garage, and a security guard and a woman protected him from an angry mob until security forces arrived. The High Court turned down the appeal of his family against sealing off their home.

Official, Media Reaction to Palestinians' Expulsion

Jerusalem Hopes for U.S. Support

TA1712195892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1922 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Israel is expecting a UN Security Council condemnation and probably a demand that sanctions be imposed on it. This is the opinion this evening of several cabinet ministers, in view of the decision on the deportations. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the United States has already made it clear to Israel today that it will not prevent the expected condemnation.

In Jerusalem it is hoped that the Americans would, after all, follow past practices and prevent the sanctions other members of the UN Security Council may demand.

Our political correspondent reports that, despite the harsh remarks Arab countries and the Palestinians made against the deportations, it is believed in Jerusalem that the peace talks will be renewed at the end of January 1993.

U.S. 'Understanding' Expected

TA1712074492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that in preliminary contacts, the U.S. Administration had hinted that drastic steps against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] would be received with understanding. Our correspondent noted, however, that the mass deportation of Hamas activists was not discussed with the Americans.

A high-level political source has said that the U.S. Administration had issued absolutely no reaction to the drastic steps employed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak against the extreme fundamentalist elements in Upper Egypt.

Rabin Comments on Court Ruling

TA1712192092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by Daniyel Pe'er and Ehud Ya'ari, in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Pe'er] Good evening, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Pe'er] It seems that you gambled. After all, the court could have ruled otherwise.

[Rabin] Indeed, when I presented the resolution at the cabinet meeting, I was motivated on the one hand by the reality of the past several months, in which there was an exacerbation of murderous terror operations by fundamentalist Islamic organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which in fact perpetrated almost all of the deplorable murders culminating in the kidnapping and cold-blooded murder of Staff Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, may he rest in peace. To the best of my understanding, as prime minister and defense minister, in order to provide additional security and to more effectively fight against the fundamentalist terror organizations and others, I had to take a step which was immediate and wide-ranging enough to give special meaning to the determination of the government and the defense establishment in their war against terror.

At the same time, I took into account the political and legal considerations. The former attorney general said here a few minutes ago that this is a deportation. I believe it is not, even if the legal term is deportation. This is a temporary distancing of inciters, and those who assist the people who incite loathsome murders, for up to two years. Some of them were temporarily distanced for one year.

[Pe'er] Mr. Prime Minister, who can guarantee that this distancing will eventually return them as peaceful men who will not harm us?

[Rabin] The fact that they were distanced for up to two years weakens it easier on us. In general, I do not believe that a single move solves the problem. The government policy speaks of walking on two feet: the political foot—the peace negotiations; and at the same time the other strong and determined foot—fighting terrorism to the bitter end. The main war is against the fundamentalist Islamic organizations, which not only want to kill Israelis, but also want to kill the peace process.

[Pe'er] The political negotiations foot seems to have been kicked tonight because already the Palestinians have not shown up for the talks. What will happen on this issue?

[Rabin] I am not worried. It is natural that on the last day of th..s round of talks, they would say that they are not showing up. They did not show up for the 9 December talks, on the fifth anniversary of the intifadah. I, however, am convinced that as soon as President-elect Clinton assumes his post as U.S. president, and when the talks are resumed, you will see them there.

[Ya'ari] Sir, what would happen to deportees who, for example, attend a cocktail party at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut tomorrow, and become outside associates of Hamas and the Iranians? Will they be allowed back into Israel?

[Rabin] I would not like to start dealing now with what will happen. Where they choose to live is their business. As long as they are out of the territories of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, that is all that is needed right now to reduce their operational ability. I will add and stress: In 60 days they may appeal to a committee authorized to allow them to return. I heard the remarks here of the representative of the association calling itself the Civil Rights Association. Noam Toledano was not given the opportunity to appeal to the High Court of Justice. I am surprised at this association turning itself into the defender of people who incite, organize, and aid murders.

[Pe'er] Mr. Rabin, does the court ruling today give the government a free hand in deportation operations of large masses or even of individuals when this is merited.

[Rabin] Look, the High Court ruling compels us. It canceled the interim injunction. We will carry out our decision. We have invested a lot of thought about the need and the means of executing it. Let us not forget our alternatives: What could we do: use capital punishment or house demolitions? Here, in fact, we distanced inciters, aides to inciters, and organizers for a period of time. We did not harm, injure, or kill anyone; we destroyed no property because I believe this tool is the most effective and the least physically harmful.

[Pe'er] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister and Defense Minister, and good evening.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Rabin Expects Talks To Continue

TA1712203192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that the Washington talks will continue despite the expulsion of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members. The Palestinians will not dictate the course of the talks, he said. Rabin stressed that he is at peace with the deportation decision because he has the power to tell the Palestinians that the way to solve the dispute is found at the negotiating table, and that nothing will be achieved through violence.

The prime minister expressed his assessment that an agreement with Syria will be made within a year because we know which matters are on the agenda with it. On the other hand, the Palestinian leadership is weak; Yasir 'Arafat is unable to make decision on a similar scale to those Israel has already made, or the one Anwar al- Sadat made at the time.

The prime minister added that, judging from information he has received, the discussions coalition Knesset members have had with Palestinian representatives created the false impression that they can win more achievements from Israel. For that reason, he recommended that caution and responsibility be observed in such conversations.

Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that the prime minister made the remarks speaking at the annual conference of the Center for Peace in Tel Aviv this evening.

Decision Not Change in Policy

TA1812054392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he was not surprised by the High Court ruling upholding the deportation orders. Rabin told reporter Le'a Zinder that the government decision does not mark a change in policy:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] When I brought yesterday my proposal to bring about not a deportation but a temporary removal of instigators—organizers of the Islamic fundamentalistic groups that try to kill Israelis, but even more than that to kill the peace negotiations—I knew that I am on a solid basis. I believe that without reactions in time, in quantity, that we will show our determination against this fundamentalistic Islamic terrorists—to kill Israelis, to kill the peace process—there will be no real peace negotiations.

[Zinder] The prime minister said: Yes, there will be censure and criticism of Israel, but he said, the peace process would go on, and, Rabin added, the expulsions did not signal a change in Israel's policy:

[Rabin] Our policy is basically a policy that stands on two feet: One, which has to solve the problem, the peace negotiations; the second one, that has to be strong, the security, the military one, to make it clear to those who try to kill Israelis, to kill the peace process, that by use of

force they will achieve nothing. And I believe in any case the possibility to move ahead in the peace negotiations is first to deliver a message to the minds, the hearts of the Palestinians that by terror and hostilities they will achieve nothing but suffering to themselves. The best way is really to negotiate seriously on the basis of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference that calls for a movement in two phases towards a permanent solution, and unfortunately, they have not started yet to negotiate seriously. [end recording]

Meretz Faction Backs Expulsion

TA1712163592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] This afternoon, the Meretz Knesset faction decided to back the government decision to deport the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. The faction says that the deportation is a bad move but, under the current security circumstances, it is a necessary evil. The Meretz faction also said that the war against the murderous extremists is justified. At the same time, this war will yield fruit only if the moderate Palestinians are encouraged and strengthened.

Meretz Overturns Decision

TA1812054792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Meretz party council last night overturned an earlier decision by party cabinet ministers and Knesset members, announcing that it had reservations about the government decision to expel the fundamentalists. Earlier, the Meretz Knesset faction passed a resolution saying it supported the government decision, but in the stormy council session last night, a decision was taken saying the expulsions were a gross violation of human rights and international law.

Knesset Factions React

TA1712185792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1725 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] Following are initial reactions to the High Court of Justice's ruling:

The Arab Knesset members [MK's] from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] condemn the ruling. I talked with ADP's 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, and it seems that if Rabin faces problems, they will come from the Arabs who support the coalition from the outside. Darawshah told us the ruling is bad. The judicial system supports a political decision for a transfer [last word in English] of part of the Palestinian people. This is a very dangerous precedent, which, to Darawshah's great regret, could kill the peace process. Yitzhaq Rabin apparently decided to go for a national unity government, MK Darawshah says. In any event, the ADP institutions will convene on Saturday in order to decide on future cooperation with the government, and it is possible that the ADP will submit a no- confidence motion.

Tzomet takes a positive view of the decision allowing the beginning of the deportation process. Tzomet believes that the 400 terrorists should be only the beginning, that all detained terrorists—about 1,600, according to the government—should be expelled. The deportation penalty has proven itself very effective and should be applied to every terrorist.

The Likud welcomes the High Court of Justice's ruling. Knesset faction chairman Moshe Qatzav calls on the government to deport the terrorists for an unlimited period of time. He claims that the deportation penalty is vital, deterring, and was proven effective in the past. It is better that terrorists move freely across the border than engage in terrorism or be in Israeli jails.

Moledet's MK Sha'ul Gutman said this evening he is happy that the High Court of Justice allowed the deportation. Gutman believes that the deportation penalty should not be subject to the High Court of Justice's ruling. When an IDF senior commander decides on a deportation for security reasons, this should be carried out the same night and without any recourse for appeal.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 17 December adds that "the Betzelem organization protests the High Court of Justice's ruling allowing the expulsions, expressing regret that the Meretz ministers, as well as some Labor ministers, who opposed deportations at the time, have now supported this decision.

"The Peace Now Movement has announced it does not believe that the expulsions will stem terrorism. It was proven in the past that deportation and collective punishment are not effective. The movement then believes that the only way to beat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is to open a dialogue with the PLO at once.

"The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has welcomed the decision to deport the Hamas activists, saying this is a step in the right direction, but at the same time, the expulsions should be anchored in appropriate legislation."]

Arab Groups To Discuss Expulsion

TA1812080192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the head of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, has said that the deportation is a gift to the opponents of peace in both the Israeli and Arab nations. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that representatives of the councils and Israeli Arab organizations will convene on Sunday to discuss the implications of the deportation.

Deputy Transportation Minister Nawaf Musaliha believes that the government is mistaken if it believes

that the deportation strengthens the moderates among the Palestinians. In his opinion, this collective punishment may be just the thing that will lead more youths to join Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Deputy Minister Musaliha says that the solution lies in a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza as a first stage for an agreement with the Palestinians.

91 Percent Support Deportation

TA1812113192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Dec 92 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by Mina Tzemah's Dahaf Institute]

[Text] Question: Do you support or oppose the government's decision to deport hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists?

Answer: support—91 percent; oppose- 8 percent; no opinion—1 percent.

Question: What effect do you think this will have on terror?

Answer: will reduce the scope of terror attacks—55 percent; will have no effect—18 percent; will increase the scope of terror attacks—26 percent.

The poll was conducted by telephone and comprised 453 respondents constituting a representative sample of the Jewish population. The poll was conducted on 17 December after the High Court of Justice ruling on the deportations.

Editorial Weighs Cost of Deportation

TA1812142492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 92 p B1

[Editorial: "Legally Correct—Politically Wrong"]

[Text] After the government authorized the prime minister and defense minister to empower the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to deport 418 people suspected of activity in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad; and after the chief of staff personally appeared at the court hearing on the appeal submitted against the deportations—then how could the High Court of Justice turn the interim injunction issued by the judge on the previous night into an order against the IDF commanders in the territories?

After the chief of staff asserted that the prospective deportees constituted an immediate danger to state security and public safety and that therefore the deportations should be carried out expeditiously—then how could the High Court of Justice contradict the chief of staff's claims?

It was almost inevitable that the High Court justices would reject the appeal. They did not reject it because they lack the civil courage to stand up to the executive authorities, but because they were without the assets to gauge what they doubted as the accuracy of the security assessment given for the territories, to the point which would enable them to reject the chief of staff's testimony and accept the appellants' claims.

After the attorney general appears before the High Court to bolster the chief of staff's claims, noting that in this particular case, we are not talking about permanent deportation but merely a temporary removal for a period of two years—or as Attorney General Yosef Harish put it, 'a mini deportation'—during which the deportees would retain the right of appeal even while outside Israeli territories—the High Court justices would find it difficult not to endorse what the government had already decided upon and what the IDF was already about to implement before the interim injunction held the operation up.

Even if the High Court's approval of this mass deportation—which almost seems like a mini transfer—puts an end to the legal argument, it cannot stop the public and political controversy. The arrest of 1,600 Hamas activists could have been justified as an act of national self-defense. Was it also necessary to remove over 400 people—or nearly 400, if those some 30 people are allowed to remain in Israel—from their homeland—in order to eliminate a clear and present danger to national security and public safety? Would it not have been enough to imprison them in one of the detention centers and thus prevent them from carrying out any damaging or dangerous activity? It is clear that deportation—even if only for a limited period—hurts the deportees and their families, but how will this augment Israel's capability to defend itself against terrorism, beyond administrative detentions? There is no convincing answer to this question.

There is an element of historic irony in the fact that these 418 Hamas activists are being deported from the country according to the same emergency regulations published by the British Mandatory government in 1945, that led to the expulsion of several fighters from the Irgun and Stern Gang [pre-state Jewish undergrounds] to African territories then under British control. But there is more than aesthetics to complain about here. The deportations and its implementation will deepen the Palestinians' hatred of Israel, and contrary to the logic which stipulates that striking at Hamas may strengthen moderate elements, the deportations may achieve just the opposite effect. The popular identification with the deportees may turn out to be stronger than the readiness to sit down and negotiate with those who deported them.

In addition to all this, the deportations will not bolster our status in the region or our standing in the international community.

Foreign Minister Condemns Israel's Deportation

JN1712171892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has summoned the ambassadors and heads of missions of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and conveyed to them Jordan's condemnation of the repressive measures adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including the possible deportation of a huge number of Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories. Dr. Abu-Jabir explained that deportation of any number of Palestinians by Israel represents a clear violation of Geneva conventions and human rights charters, causes a substantial harm to the peace process, and creates a setback in current negotiations. He stressed that tension in the occupied territories should be handled through serious actions that will help the peace process succeed. He added that escalating measures of repression and returning to methods of the past will not bring a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the conflict. Such actions only served to aggravate the situation in the occupied territories. The foreign minister demanded the intervention of the five countries to pressure Israel to create the suitable atmosphere for the continuation of the peace process. The government asked Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York to contact the UN secretary general and the presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly to convey Jordan's position and to request their intervention to stop the serious deterioration in the occupied territories. The government also asked its representative to the United Nations in Geneva to raise this issue with the UN Human Rights Committee.

House Speaker Comments

JN1712213592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, has announced the House's condemnation of the mass expulsion operations being conducted by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Arab territories. Details are provided in the following report compiled by our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, stated at a news conference held this evening that what is currently taking place in the occupied territories is an act by the Israeli occupation authorities of mass expulsion of people. Such an act has not been seen since 1948. This measure, he added, is aimed at evicting the population of the occupied territories. This expulsion measure is merely a link in the chain of expulsion operations conducted from time to time by the Israeli occupation authorities.

['Arabiyat] We, at the House of Representatives, on behalf of our mujahid people declare that these measures are arbitrary and unjust. These measures are not indicative of any realistic, humanitarian, or wise views. This is because these measures will have adverse repercussions. The Palestinian people, who were uprooted from their land tens of years ago and who are still living in refugee camps, continue to experience expulsion, displacement, and forcible eviction through all conceivable inhumane methods. What is currently taking place is an example of the unjust practices perpetrated in the past. Hence, we urge the world to view what is taking place with farsightedness, and to view fairly and justly the lot of the Palestinian people as well as the continuing repression being practiced against this people.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Arabiyat urged the Arab and Islamic states to condemn the mass expulsion operations and to firmly oppose such measures. He appealed to all international organizations, humanitarian bodies, and human rights activists to condemn these arbitrary measures by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The news conference was attended by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and some deputies. [end recording]

2 Iraqis To Stand Trial for Scientist's Murder

JN1712130892 Amman THE STAR in English 17-23 December 92 p 2

[Text] Two Iraqis arrested on charges of killing an Iraqi nuclear scientist last week will be put on trial, sources have announced. One of the killers is an Iraqi with diplomatic papers, THE STAR has learned. Sources said the Iraqi intelligence were behind the murder of Mr. Mu'ayyad al-Janabi, who was shot in Jabal al-Hussayn as he was walking with his wife and children.

Mr. al-Janabi was on holiday in Jordan, but failed to return to Iraq after his leave had expired. He was reported to have been seeking a visa for the United States, Libya or Tunis. He was working for the Iraqi Nuclear Agency Commission. The killing has marred Jordan-Iraqi relations. Thousands of Iraqis residing in Jordan expressed dismay and fear for their safety. The dead man's wife, Wafa', and her two children were given permanent residency in Jordan and are said to be under tight security.

An official at the Iraqi embassy in Jordan said the Israeli Mossad was behind the assassination.

Hasan Stresses Priority of Palestinian Problem

AU1312192292 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 12-13 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan by Brigitte Voykowitsch in Amman; date not given: "The Peace Process Can Be Sensational"]

[Text] "The Palestinian problem is the central problem of the Middle East negotiations. A withdrawal by Israel from the Golan or from Jordanian territory cannot be

considered politically equivalent to finding a solution for the Palestinians," Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan said in an interview with European journalists, including a representative of DER STANDARD, on the occasion of a fact-finding mission organized by the United Nations.

Therefore, he thinks that bilateral agreements a la Camp David between Israel and Syria or Israel and Jordan at the cost of a comprehensive peace solution for the Middle East are unlikely.

[Voykowitsch] You have come out in favor of a more active role by the United States in the peace process. What do you expect?

[Hasan] In view of the internal problems and the excessively dense foreign policy agenda of the United States, there is the danger that our region can become a secondary issue, that we are only topical as long as there are violent conflicts. The peace process can be sensational, however, in the sense of breakthroughs and the new horizons that open up as a result. It is important that the United States not limit itself to telling us what we should not do, such as "do not talk about refugees," "do not talk about family reunification."

We must come from innovation to move-action. A refugee convention from the 1950's cannot cover all the topical issues. We need new approaches, such as a social charter or a regional development fund in order to overcome the enormous social and economic imbalance between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians. Per capita income in Israel is 14 times higher than in the occupied territories. The roots of the tensions in the Middle East are poverty and unequal treatment. The Jordanians and the Palestinians are facing two powerful neighbors—Israel on one side, the oil-producing Arab states on the other.

[Voykowitsch] What are Jordan's relations with the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia like?

[Hasan] I think we must not give up hope that we will be able to normalize relations again. We just hope that such a normalization will not be too late for us all. I think that we have talked enough about who acted how in the Gulf War.

Parliamentarians Meet Visiting Danish Party Group

JN171210UK992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni, first vice president of the Senate, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat [speaker of the House of Representatives] met separately at the Parliament today with a delegation of the Danish Social Democratic Party, which is currently visiting Jordan. Details are provided in the following report prepared by our correspondent for parliamentary affairs.

[Begin recording] At the outset of the meeting, Bahjat al-Talhuni reviewed Jordan's stand toward the peace process, indicating that Jordan is honoring the resolutions of the Security Council, honoring international legitimacy, and participating in the bilateral Washington peace talks, as well as the multilateral talks, out of the understanding that an acceptable solution is one which honors the principle of trading land for peace.

Then, Marwan al-Qasim, rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, spoke, indicating that Israel, in its capacity as an occupier state, has failed to honor the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel, he added, must subscribe to these resolutions.

Senator al-Qasim went on to say: Since the end of the cold war, Europe has begun to assume an effective role to find a just solution to the Middle East conflict, based on the return of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, to their rightful owners. Jordan aspires to the establishment of peace, which could be achieved through the effective, active, and true involvement of the United States as a major party. Besides, the UN role in the ongoing negotiations must be activated.

Concerning the Israeli cabinet's decision to deport a number of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Senator al-Qasim said: This measure is deemed a strong blow to the peace process. The excuse advanced—something to the effect that the Israeli decision in this regard came about in response to the killing of an Israeli soldier—failed to note the fact that the Israeli army has killed scores of Palestinians due to the continued Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, also met with the delegation of the Danish Social Democratic Party at the Parliament this morning. He reviewed with the delegation the parliamentary and democratic course being pursued in Jordan, something that qualifies Jordan to play a pioneering role in the region. Dr. 'Arabiyat affirmed that the Palestine question is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The root cause of the conflict, the history of the conflict, as well as the successive Israeli plans to obliterate all Palestinian rights must be considered, 'Arabiyat noted.

For his part, Steen Christensen, head of the Danish delegation, expressed his party's sympathy with the Palestine question and Arab rights, and affirmed its support for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace that would provide all with security and stability. He pointed out that the Social Democratic Party had special ties with Israel in the past. However, he noted, since the 1967 war and the Lebanon invasion, ties with Israel have taken a different direction. [end recording]

Israeli Deportation of Palestinians Reported

Army Closes Border

NC1712172192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army has implemented an official decision and closed border crossings in the south to prevent 418 Palestinian deportees from entering. They will be returned to the occupied territories if the decision to deport them is carried out. This is the first time that Lebanon has refused to receive Palestinians deported by Israel from the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Israel Scuffles With UNIFIL

NC1712210092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent reports that a scuffle has occurred between Israeli forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in the Ibl al-Saqy area. UNIFIL is trying to prevent the Israelis from crossing with the convoy carrying the Palestinian deportees.

AFP has reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross intends to set up tents in the buffer zone between the security zone and the rest of Lebanon to shelter the deported Palestinians, whom the Lebanese Government has refused to receive.

Buses Arrive at Crossing Point

NC1712221092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 17 Dec 9292

[Text] The latest information from our correspondent indicates that the buses transporting the Palestinian deportees began arriving at Zummarayya crossing point after crossing Ibil al-Saqy, where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon tried to prevent them.

[Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 2145 GMT on 17 December in a similar report adds: "Our correspondent in the south reports that the eight buses that had been parked in Ibil al-Saqy crossed Zummarayya crossing point just after 2100 today after the problem between the Israeli force accompanying the buses and soldiers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon had been solved."]

Deportees at Crossing Overnight

NC1712223492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The latest on the question of the Palestinian deportees is a report by a NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent. He says that the deportees arrived at 2230 last night at Zummarayya crossing point in 20 buses escorted by 20 military vehicles. According to the report, the 400 deportees were blindfolded. The occupation forces adopted stringent security measures after they forcefully passed three checkpoints manned by the Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon at the intersection of Ibil al-Saqy, Suq Khan, and Kawkaba.

Security sources report that the deportees will spend the night at Zummarayya crossing point amid tight security. They will then be deported outside the occupied region toward al-Biqa'.

The Lebanese Army took tight security measures and reinforced its checkpoints in Marj al-Zuhur, 'Ayn 'Ata hills, and Mimis pursuant to the Army Command's orders not to allow the deportees into the liberated areas.

Israelis Fire To Prevent Return

NC1812064492 Shumayk Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' reports that at 0630 today, the occupation forces carried out their arbitrary decision to deport around 418 detainees from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and Islamic Jihad from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They were expelled outside the border strip and walked via Zummarayya crossing point toward the liberated areas.

At 0400 today, six civilian trucks carried the deportees to Marj al-Zuhur, where the Lebanese Army refused to let them enter the area and turned them back to Zummarayya. As they returned, soldiers of the occupation army fired at them to force them to return toward the liberated areas. They are still walking toward Marj al-Zuhur. Some deportees who are sick were taken from the hospitals. One deportee said they were kept at the border for two days—blindfolded and with their hands tied. He said the occupation forces prevented them from performing the prayer rite and beat some of them. They were moved at night to the Zummarayya crossing point. The deportee added that the occupation authorities gave each one $50 and two pieces of bread.

Army Prevents Deportees Entry

NC1812064092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Where are the deported Palestinians? The definite answer is that they are outside Israel and inside Lebanon. The interim answer is that they are north of the security strip area and at its northern edge awaiting the outcome of current contacts. According to available information, the convoy of deportees, which arrived at the Zummarayya crossing point, attempted at 0500 today to leave the border strip area in six trucks carrying Lebanese number plates. But a Lebanese Army checkpoint ordered the trucks to return to the border strip area. This took place at the first Army checkpoint in the al-Biqa' Valley, where an argument took place between the Army troops manning the checkpoint and the deportees, which ended with a Lebanese threat to use force if necessary.

The deportees' convoy, accompanied by Israeli armored vehicles and jeeps, arrived in Zummarayya last night via

Tall al-Nahlus and Ibil al-Saqy, where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon tried to prevent it from entering.

Among the temporary solutions proposed for the deportees is that the International Red Cross set up tents in the buffer zone between the border strip and the north to house the deportees awaiting the results of local and international contacts.

A source close to the Lebanese Army has said that the Lebanese soldiers have received instructions from the Lebanese Government to use all possible peaceful means to prevent the entry of the deportees into Lebanon.

Premier Issues 'Strict Orders'

NC1812071592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur prevented the convoy of deportees from leaving the security strip. A squabble between personnel manning the checkpoint and the deportees ended with a Lebanese threat to fire at anyone trying to leave the area, according to orders given to the Lebanese Army.

On the political stand, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri issued strict orders to the Ministry of Defense to prevent anyone from entering the areas under Lebanese Government control.

In an interview with the BBC, al-Hariri said that if the Palestinians are harmed, the responsibility lies with Israel.

Condition of Deportees Noted

NC1812100692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] According to the latest information received by the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, the vehicles carrying the Palestinian deportees are still moving between Marj al-Zuhur crossing and Zummarayya checkpoint, where the Lebanese Army is deployed.

Security sources told the news agency that the International Red Cross sent the deportees three trucks laden with food and blankets and an ambulance with a doctor to examine them.

AFP reported that the Israeli occupation forces fired over the deportees' heads and forced them to leave the occupied border strip.

The officer in charge of the Lebanese Army checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur had told the deportees that they would not be allowed to enter the liberated areas and that they would have to return to Zummarayya crossing. The agency said that the deportees presently are in the buffer zone between Zummarayya and Marj al-Zuhur.

Here is a voice dispatch on the deportees:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Zahlah, NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY bureau. How can the situation of the Palestinian deportees be summarized?

At 0345 today, the Palestinian deportees arrived at the Lebanese Army checkpoint at Zummarayya crossing in civilian trucks. The Army unit kept them on the trucks and prevented them from entering Lebanese territory, acting on the government's decision.

But informed sources said the Lebanese Army was concerned about the humanitarian status of the deportees, because according to eyewitnesses, they are almost naked, without food, and some are suffering bullet wounds. A large number of them are sick and need immediate treatment. For this reason, the Lebanese Army held speedy contacts with all humanitarian organizations, especially the International Red Cross, to secure tents, woolen blankets, clothing, food, and a doctor and medicine to treat the wounded and sick. This took place at the site where the deportees were present outside Lebanese territory.

It has been learned that the Lebanese Army reinforced its positions in that area at dawn today to deal with potential developments. [end recording]

Deportees Stage 'Sit-in'

NC1812111992 Shamykh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Singing and chanting nationalist slogans, the Palestinian deportees staged a sit-in at the Mimis sector, about 1 km from Zummarayya crossing, which they saw as the point nearest to occupied Palestine where they could hold a sit-in.

Our correspondent said the deportees thanked the Lebanese Government and people for their stand and said the deportation will empty Palestine of its people.

Our correspondent said the deportees were received by a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] delegation led by Walihah Abu-Fa'ur, official in charge of the emerier in Western al-Biqa', and a crowd of citizens.

Our correspondent in Western al-Biqa' reported a short time ago that the deportees are staging a sit-in in Mimis sector along with the PSP delegation and residents of nearby villages. [passage omitted]

The deportees received food supplies from the PSP a short time ago. Two International Red Cross and Lebanese Red Cross vehicles arrived at the scene. A doctor accompanying the vehicles and deported doctors treated some cases. The PSP assigned a doctor and provided medicine to treat the sick and placed an ambulance at their disposal.

Reaction to Israeli Deportation Decision Reported

Hamas Appeals to UN, Government

NC1712113992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Citing arrivals from the occupied strip, the Voice of the People Radio correspondent in the south reports

that the forces [words indistinct] imposed strict security measures today on Kafr Tibnit crossing in preparation for the expulsion of Palestinians to the south immediately after the issuance of the Israeli Higher Justice Court's ruling.

In Beirut, Hamas representative in Lebanon Abu-Muhammad Mustafa has appealed to the United Nations to intervene to stop the expulsion order and asked the Lebanese Government through the Voice of the People Radio to prevent the deportees from entering Lebanese territory to secure their return to the occupied land. He said:

[Begin Mustafa recording] News agency reports on the barbaric and terrorist Zionist decision to deport 400 Palestinian detainees from Hamas and Islamic Jihad and bus them to the Lebanese-Palestinian border pending the higher court's ruling is a terrorist act demonstrating the Zionist government's barbarism and madness. It is an act that must [words indistinct] with all available means. The United Nations must take a stand. The civilized world, advocates of the new world order, Arab and Islamic nations and governments, and the negotiators must announce their withdrawal from the talks as soon as the decision is implemented. We appeal to the Lebanese Government to stand firm against this decision and not to contribute to this deportation by accepting the deportees on its territory. We ask the Lebanese Government to prevent their entry onto Lebanese territory and send them back to the occupied land while the entire world pressures the Zionist enemy. This enemy is deporting them to Lebanon and cannot deport them to Egypt or Jordan, because both of these countries refuse to accept deported people. We ask our Arab and Islamic people, as well as the people of the world, to take action to stop this decision. [end recording]

In a telephone call with the Voice of the People, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine also called on the Palestinian negotiating delegation to withdraw from the negotiations. It asked the Lebanese Government not to allow the deportees to enter Lebanese territory. The spokesman on behalf of the Islamic Jihad believes the Israeli step stems from its inability to do anything else.

Within the same framework, the negotiating Palestinian delegation handed a message to U.S. President George Bush from Yasir 'Arafat asking him to intervene to stop the process of mass deportation to Lebanon.

Bawayz: Not a Border Issue

NC1712164092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] On Israel's threat to deport 418 Palestinians to Lebanon and whether Lebanon will close the border in the faces of the deportees, Foreign Minister Fares Bawayz said: The issue is not one of closing the border; we have held contacts with the international forces so that they will not allow the Israelis to expel the Palestinians to Lebanon, there is also coordination with the Defense Ministry on this matter. Bawayz added: The international forces have received our demand that the deportees not be allowed into Lebanon. He asked: What will happen? Will they return them? Bawayz added: The international forces did not fire at them; nothing has happened so far, but we took precautionary measures and asked the international forces not to allow Israel to expel the Palestinians to Lebanon.

'Arafat Orders Fatah Forces Alert

NC1712173192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Fatah official in Lebanon Munir al-Maqaddih has said that he has received an order from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to adopt precautionary measures and to declare a general mobilization and alert among Fatah ranks in Lebanon to confront all possibilities and to defend the camps against Israel.

He added that the answer to the decision to deport the Palestinians is to escalate armed struggle and open all Arab fronts.

Al-Hariri Calls Syria's Khaddam

NC1812004992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held consultations by telephone with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on the latest Lebanese and Arab developments and the bilateral peace talks.

Hizballah Views Deportations

NC1812004992 Al Sahafa Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Regarding the developments in occupied Palestine, Hizballah has issued a statement in which it says: The qualitative development that has characterized the recent confrontation operations against the Zionist occupation inside occupied Palestine represents important and promising progress on the Palestinian people's movement to regain all their rights and their rejection of the Zionist entity and negotiations with it. This comes when all parties agree that the organizations have lost their credibility and their ability to achieve even a small measure of the Palestinian rights. The mujahidin operations are consistent with the level of danger which the settlement process represents to the area amid Zionist inflexibility on the one hand, and lack of Arab balance on the other. They accompany the continuous escalation exercised by the usurping entity against the Palestinian civilians in the form of killing, detention, and humiliation on a daily basis. This has rendered international silence and the absence of effective world positions as natural and expected.

The Hizballah statement adds: By their recent operations, the Palestinian mujahidin have achieved a sudden

strategic gain which destroys the Israeli security concept from inside after it was undermined by the intifadah movement in past years.

The statement said: If Israel is about to crown the wide-scale detention campaign it launched against the Palestinian civilians with a new deportation campaign, this will be considered a serious new escalation which must receive concentrated and advanced response from all the resistance forces inside and outside Palestine consistent with the serious implications of the deportation of the Palestinians outside Palestine.

The Hizballah statement continues: Therefore, at a time when we address our warning to the Zionist enemy against implementing its decision to deport our Palestinian brothers from their homes and land, we declare our pride in the mujahidin of the Palestinian people and our solidarity with them against the Zionists, the murders of the prophets and enemies of God, humanity, and history.

'Big Powers' Briefed on Crisis

NC1812105692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has summoned the ambassadors of the five big powers in Lebanon to a meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz between 1500 and 1530 today to brief them on Lebanon's position of refusing to let the Palestinian deportees enter Lebanese territory. Following a meeting today, Editors Association Chairman Melhem Karam cited Minister Buwayz as saying that Lebanon's position on this issue is firm. At 1130 today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi met Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. Defense Minister Mohsin Dalloul emphasized that the firm and final position of the Lebanese Government is to prevent the deportees from entering Lebanese territory. He added that the government will not retreat from this position, irrespective of the circumstances or consequences. Dalloul said orders given to the Lebanese Army at the Marj al-Zuhur position are not to let the deportees enter the area controlled by the Lebanese Army. He said the Army units fully and meticulously implemented the orders this morning. Dalloul asked: Why was Lebanon chosen as the place to deport these people and why aren't they brought to trial in their country if they have committed a crime? AFP cited Palestinian envoy Husayn Jabra, who is negotiating with the Lebanese officers, as saying that the Lebanese Army has clear orders not to receive the deportees. The Lebanese officer in charge at the Marj al-Zuhur checkpoint asked the deportees to return to Zummarayya.

[In its report, Paris AFP in English at 0919 GMT on 18 December adds the following: "Husayn Jabra went to negotiate with Lebanese officers who steadfastly refused to let them pass.

[" 'The Lebanese army told us that it had specific orders not to allow through one single deportee,' he said. 'They told us to go back to Zummarayya (a checkpoint held by Israel) and to try return to Palestine.'

["Another deportee, Muhammad Salman al-Zir, told AFP that 'When we tried to go back to Zummarayya at dawn the army fired in the air and threatened to shoot us if we had another go.'"]

REUTER reported that Israel has placed its armed forces on a state of alert following the deportation operation. The International Red Cross has distributed blankets and food to the deportees, who sat in the buffer zone. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon has expressed its support for the Lebanese Government decision and its readiness to abide by it. A UN spokesman said that since the deportation the UN force has been on maximum alert in Sribbin, Yatar, Jisr al-Hamra', at the Bayt Yahun crossing point, and Qu'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

'Senior' Government Source on Resolution 425

NC1712114692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] In a meeting with media personnel on the local and regional situation, a senior government source announced that one of the government's basic concerns is the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the south. He said Prime Minister al-Hariri did not sense during his foreign contacts any linkage between the two issues of sending aid and implementing Resolution 425 and the issue of Syrian redeployment in Lebanon. The source affirmed that contacts with the U.S. Administration to implement Resolution 425 have not stopped, either internally or through the negotiating Lebanese delegation currently in Washington. The government source affirmed that some are suggesting that this is a government of electricity, water, and telephones. However, we believe that one of the basic concerns, in addition to the issues of daily life, is Israeli withdrawal from the south.

The government source believes that national reconciliation is one of the objectives of this government, expressing Prime Minister al-Hariri's readiness to work to meet with all Lebanese. He is continuing his activities for national reconciliation and the return of the displaced people. The same source said time is playing its role regarding openness. The prime minister is not hostile to anyone, except that he has convictions and firm principles. He does not accept any statements that call for differences with Syria or reconciliation with Israel before the Arab countries or cancellation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

On Prime Minister al-Hariri's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the government source said the visit was a private one. His talks with Saudi officials, foremost of which was King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, focused on help implementing Resolution 425. He pointed out that contacts between ranking officials in the kingdom and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton dealt with the situation in

the Middle East region. Prime Minister al-Hariri formed a positive impression regarding the course of implementing Resolution 425.

The source added: We are committed to implementing what was stated in the government policy statement. We mean every word we said. In the final analysis, judgment should be passed on the results and not on appearances.

On the issue of arrests and reports in the media, the government source said this issue is in the hands of the judiciary. The impartiality of the judiciary should not be doubted. Some of what is being reported is inaccurate. The source revealed that Prime Minister al-Hariri informed judges of the Supreme Judicial Council that he will work on bolstering the role of the judiciary and prevent interference from any side in the work of the judicial authorities. [passage omitted]

The senior government source affirmed that Prime Minister al-Hariri has no enmity toward anyone and the reasons for the reports by certain agencies are known. He said: We cannot accept nor do we allow encroachment on liberties. The government rules through the confidence of the people and Chamber of Deputies. It will continue its action so long as it gains the confidence of these two bodies.

On the subject of media and action by the information minister to put an end to the lack of standards in the media, which sometimes contradicts humanitarian, national, and nonviolent values and principles, the government source said the subject of morals is very basic, as is the subject of national sense. No one can attempt to impose any political language or address on any other party. Freedom is safeguarded and guaranteed by the Constitution. The government respects and adheres to freedom. But what is being discussed now is organizing the media organizations, not the media itself, and paying specific attention to the moral, national, and principled aspects. We believe that rectification should take place automatically.

The government source made a distinction between political incitement and political opposition. He said that he received a memorandum with demands from journalists, referred to him by the dayan of the journalists and editors union. He said he is currently studying it and will take the appropriate measures in response to demands.

Former President Al-Jumayyil on Reconciliation

PM1712095092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p 2

[Interview with former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by 'Ali al-Ruzz in London; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Ruzz] What is your comment on the rumors of inter-Lebanese reconciliations designed to prepare for a reconciliation between the Christians and Syria?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese leaders' reconciliation should not be linked to the external dimension, that is to each leader's relationship with Syria or any other state, especially as relations with states are supposed to be determined by governments, not individuals or leaders, no matter how high, provided that these governments are derived from a free national will and in control of independent national decisionmaking.

What I fear most is that these circumstantial initiatives may be aimed at throwing dust in the eyes, distracting us from our crucial issues and present priorities, and evading implementation of the commitments agreed at the security and political levels. What is more, these circumstantial initiatives are also bound to give the impression that there is disagreement among the Lebanese over the need for special relations with Syria. We have forgotten that we established firm foundations for internal reconciliation and relations with Syria in various eras, especially in my era and that of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami in 1984.

[Al-Ruzz] Would you participate in a general conference for reconciliation if the government calls for it in Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] In order for the invitation to a national conference to succeed, the following natural conditions and requirements should be available: First, the inviting party's good intentions and its neutrality with regard to internal disputes. Second, an atmosphere of security and freedom should be provided for the national leaders concerned with reconciliation to enable them to exercise political action, in particular on Lebanese territory, so as to enable all the leaders, who represent a large sector of the people on the ground, to perform their duty toward those who put their trust in them and toward the homeland. Third, this reconciliation should be part of a national plan to be followed by the establishment of a national regime that gives the state representation power and popular legitimacy.

Since the end of my term I have been among the first to call for real national reconciliation, not a reconciliation of "convenience." And if the resolution of the Lebanese issue is linked to the resolution of the Middle East issue, Lebanese reconciliation should at least be separate from any external consideration.

[Al-Ruzz] How would you assess government performance at present?

[Al-Jumayyil] The government is generally a national authority before it is a telephone or electricity authority, although these are essential things for people. Anyhow, it existed before the war broke out in Lebanon and failed to stop the war over 17 years. The government is responsible before anything else for achieving and defending national issues, like sovereignty, independence, democracy, and freedom. So where are we with regard to such a government, and what has the present government achieved with regard to these sacrosanct things?

We fear to pin our hopes on dreams, because a dream could turn into a nightmare, especially as the Lebanese scene has known this kind of dreams since the war began. It has turned into a nightmare because of failure to tackle the basic problems. And if regional conditions are really favorable for tackling the roots of the crisis, why have no efforts been made to achieve real Lebanese accord and restore sovereignty and independence?

[Al-Razz] What is your opinion of the present handling of the redeployment issue?

[Al-Jumayyil] I have said from the outset that, if redeployment is not within the framework of a comprehensive plan, it will lead to partitioning the country, which will become several regions, indefinitely and outside Lebanese sovereignty. So what is required is to reach an understanding on this matter to ensure that redeployment falls within this framework.

[Al-Razz] How do you view the future of the relationship between the Phalangist Party and the "Lebanese Forces" in view of the talk about organizing the Phalangist house from within?

[Al-Jumayyil] As far as I know, the "Lebanese Forces" are an integral part of the Phalangist Party. They are its military arm. And the "Forces'" leader Dr. Samir Ja'ja' is to this day entrusted with this post by the party's Political Bureau. So I do not know how the two institutions can be separated in such a way. The Phalangist party is the parent institution and should resolve the "Forces" issue on that basis, because the "Forces'" heritage is the Phalangist Party's heritage.

Now that it has been agreed to disband the militias, the basics should be dealt with and an understanding should be reached between the Phalangist Party and those in charge of the "Forces" to settle this matter, as in the end they are our institution and the "Forces'" leader is a Phalangist Party member who ran recently for the party leadership.

[Al-Razz] But the "Forces" could become an independent party?

[Al-Jumayyil] Theoretically, anyone can set up a party. I am saying theoretically, because freedom in Lebanon is "made to measure" or "on application." As for the "Forces," they are until now an integral part of the Phalangist Party, and it is the task of the party's Political Bureau and the "Forces'" leadership to work to determine their future in the light of developments on the Lebanese scene, especially now that it has been agreed to end the militias' role. This is in the knowledge that a number of militias have still not been disbanded or disarmed.

[Al-Razz] Would you go to Damascus, if invited?

[Al-Jumayyil] Current practice on the Lebanese scene is bound to obstruct the establishment of strong and real relations with Syria. All the praise, commendations, and veneration announced in this connection are artificial and do not reflect the people's true feelings.

Throughout my political career I have worked to develop and strengthen these relations. And I am still working in that direction. My opposition is to how things are in practice, to the failure to establish a Lebanese authority which can talk openly to officials in Syria about the real dimensions of Lebanese concerns and the Lebanese people's feelings. I am for a Lebanese peace with Syria's help. But I am against a Syrian peace at Lebanon's expense. I am not against Syria. I am bound to Syrian officials by ties of amity and friendship. And I would not hesitate to do anything I can to help correct the situation and restore trust between Lebanon and Syria.

AL-BA'TH: Israeli Deportation 'Blow' to Peace

JN1812065492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says the deportation of Palestinian Arabs from their homeland deals a blow to the peace process.

In an editorial today, the paper says, Israel has taken another step to undermine the peace efforts and strike at the process, the results of which are awaited by the world.

The paper explains that the deportation of the Arab citizens contradicts the latest UN Security Council resolution concerning the status of Palestinians under Zionist occupation. The paper points out that this is not the first Israeli violation or the first Israeli defiance of international will. The paper urges the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility and deter this Israeli violation of international law.

AL-BA'TH says: Deportation is not the only crime Israel is committing to strike at the peace process. The Israelis commit new crimes every day against the Arabs of the occupied homeland and the people of Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: As long as Israel deliberately seeks to strike at the peace process through its measures and evasive methods, the Arabs would not be the only party that would lose from the collapse of this process. The entire world will lose its wager and the West and the world will finally realize that the Arabs have never been enemy to peace and will never capitulate to their enemies and relinquish their rights.

Vice-President Defends Role in Lebanon

AU1512153092 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 15 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam granted to 15 European journalists belonging to a UN mission, including DER STANDARD reporter Brigitte Voykowitsch, during the weekend in Damascus: "The Syrians and the Lebanese Are One People"]

[Voykowitsch] Is Syria's rhetoric not having a negative impact on the peace process? No other country insists to the same extent on the threat posed by "Zionist expansionism."

[Khaddam] Your question surprises me. What has changed in Israel? Have the Israelis withdrawn from the occupied territories? Why should we change, as long as the aggressor does not change? First of all, a just solution to the Palestinian issue must be found. Then we will think about a possible new language.

[Voykowitsch] Has progress been achieved in the talks on the Golan Heights?

[Khaddam] Israel continues to reject complete withdrawal. Yet Syria will not give up a single inch of its territory. In addition, we will not agree to a partial solution. The Camp David agreement has shown what such solutions are worth: It has not brought peace to the region but only made the situation more complicated.

[Voykowitsch] PLO leader 'Arafat suggested that we ask you how Syria can participate in the peace process while at the same time tolerating various groups of Palestinians in the country who reject this process.

[Khaddam] 'Arafat apparently suffered some brain damage during the plane crash. In Syria, there are groups of Palestinians who are against 'Arafat and others who support him. We do not interfere with the affairs of the Palestinians. Why does 'Arafat not ask Rabin to ban the Likud, which also opposes the peace process?

[Voykowitsch] What do you think of Iran's support for Hamas?

[Khaddam] Your question surprises me. If American Jews support Israel, why should Iranians or Pakistani Muslims not help their fellow-believers?

[Voykowitsch] Why does Syria continue to support the Hizballah in southern Lebanon?

[Khaddam] The Hizballah is waging a just struggle against the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon. Why should we prevent that so long as Israel is not ready to withdraw from southern Lebanon? Were the French terrorists who fought against the Nazis?

[Voykowitsch] When will you withdraw your troops from Beirut and the Bekaa valley?

[Khaddam] Lebanon's main problem—proportional representation at the political level in accordance with the religious groups—has not yet been settled. Thus, the Syrians are trying to ensure that Lebanon continues to exist as a united and independent state. The Lebanese Army is not in a position to maintain stability and peace.

[Voykowitsch] Does this mean that the Syrians might still be in Lebanon in 20 years' time?

[Khaddam] The Syrians and the Lebanese are one people and two states. It was the feeling of belonging together that prompted Damascus to intervene in Beirut, to end the civil war, and to restore the constitutional order. Personally, the Syrians are not interested in remaining in Lebanon.

India

Pakistan Asked To Withdraw Diplomat

BK1712161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] India has asked Islamabad to withdraw immediately an official belonging to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. The action follows the arrest and confession by the Indian contact of the Pakistani official, Mohammad Salim Anjum. Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the Indian contact man provided convincing evidence of the Pakistani official's unacceptable activities.

The spokesman said India regrets the decision of the Pakistani authorities to expel three Indian officials and described the expulsion as a propaganda ploy. He said Pakistan continues with activities which flout diplomatic norms.

A spokesman of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad described the expulsion of the three Indian diplomats from Pakistan as an unnecessary escalation of tension between the two countries.

Legislators Debate No-Confidence Vote

BK1712164392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I and the non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] opposition parties today made a scathing attack on the BJP and its allies, holding them responsible for the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] at Ayodhya and subsequent violence. Participating in the debate on the BJP-sponsored no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha, they called upon all secular forces to fight communalism and fundamentalism with determination. The National Front and left parties also charged the government with lack of political will to deal with the situation.

The BJP criticized the center for dismissing three BJP-ruled state governments, describing the action as unconstitutional. The BJP also deplored the ban on the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], and Bajrang Dal.

The house witnessed ministers—Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mr. Arjun Singh, and Mr. Balram Jakhar—strongly defending the government's actions during the marathon debate marked by occasional exchanges. They accused the BJP of whipping up religious sentiments for narrow political gains.

Initiating the debate, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee expressed regret over the happenings in Ayodhya on 6 December and said his party is prepared to accept responsibility for whatever wrong it had committed. He said the center also cannot escape its responsibility and questioned why the central forces were not moved when the situation was going out of control. Criticizing the dismissal of BJP-ruled state governments, Mr. Vajpayee asked why similar action was not taken against governments of other states where there was large-scale violence.

Holding the BJP and the Congress-I responsible for the tragedy in Ayodhya, a Janata Dal member said no one will benefit by following the path of confrontation.

The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, said whatever steps the prime minister has taken to salvage the country from the crisis are in the national interest and he and the Congress-I are solidly behind Mr. Narasimha Rao. He said the BJP having failed on all other fronts is now trying to exploit the Ayodhya issue for coming to power.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, justifying the dismissal of the BJP governments, said that he did not use the army made available to curb violence. He said the only mistake the center made was in believing the Kalyan Singh government and BJP assurances given to the highest court and parliament. The agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, said the tragedy could have been averted had the BJP leaders been serious in honoring their commitments.

A CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] member supported the dismissal of the BJP governments and called upon all the secular forces to fight communalism. A CPI-M member said his party cannot support the no-confidence motion but criticized the government for acting in haste in dismissing the BJP state governments.

A senior Janata Party member and former prime minister criticized the center for not taking action even after the National Integration Council gave it a free hand. Janata Dal-A and Telugu Desam members demanded speedy action to restore confidence among the minorities. Earlier, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, admitted the no-confidence motion moved by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee which received the support of more than 50 members. The motion was taken up for discussion soon after the question hour, which was boycotted by the BJP. The debate will continue tomorrow.

Debate Resumes 18 Dec

BK1812092492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha today resumed discussion on the no-confidence motion against the government moved yesterday by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. In his incomplete speech before the house adjourned for lunch, Swami Chinmayanand, BJP, said that had the Allahabad High Court verdict come earlier, the tragedy at Ayodhya on the 6th could have been averted. Owning responsibility, he said he gave promise to the Supreme Court on the basis of the assurances given by saints and mahants [Hindu religious leaders] that the court order will not be violated. He said they made their best efforts to prevent

the incident at Ayodhya, but when the situation went out of control, nothing could be done to prevent the demolition.

The discussion was initiated yesterday by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee who expressed regrets over the happenings in Ayodhya on the 6th of this month, saying that his party is prepared to accept responsibility for whatever wrong it had committed. But, he said the center also cannot escape its responsibility. He questioned why the central forces were not moved into Ayodhya when the situation was going out of control.

The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh; the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar; and the agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar; in their spirited replies yesterday, charged the BJP of committing breach of faith and justified the dismissal of the BJP governments.

Mr. Sharad Yadav, Janata Dal, said both the BJP and Congress-I are equally responsible for the Ayodhya incident. He said no one will benefit by following the path of confrontation. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], opposed the motion and said all secular forces should unite to fight the cancer of communalism. He said there cannot be any compromise with communal forces who defied the government, parliament, and the judiciary.

Minister Chavan Discusses Ayodhya Incidents

BK1812100892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was assured today that the government will not default to keep its basic commitment to protect and preserve the rights, lives, and liberty of the minorities. Making a statement on the situation arising out of the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque], the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the government will take every step needed to fulfill this commitment not only entrusted by the Constitution, but also by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Mr. Chavan said at this hour of national peril, we appeal to all sections of the house to stand united because only in this manner we can preserve and protect our Constitution as well secure the country's future.

Earlier, as the house assembled this morning, the chairman, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, informed the members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting yesterday had decided to suspend the question hour so that a short-duration discussion on the subject could be taken up today. Mr. Narayanan said the committee also recommended that private members business, scheduled for this afternoon, will also be postponed to Tuesday so that the discussion on the Ayodhya developments can be taken up today.

Initiating the discussion on the home minister's statement, Mr. Sikander Bakht, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said that what happened in Ayodhya this month was against the wishes and the plans of his party. He said Mr. Advani and Mr. Joshi could have been called to parliament to explain what exactly happened on that day as these leaders were on the spot. He said there was a mass movement in Ayodhya and not all kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] belonged to the BJP, VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], and Bajrang Dal and, hence, were not bound by the rules of these organizations.

Giving details of the sequence of events that happened at Ayodhya on the 6th of this month, Mr. Chavan said the nation has been a witness to one of the most dastardly acts committed since independence. He said the government unequivocally condemns this act. The communal forces represented by the BJP-VHP-RSS combine have violated the sacred trust which every Indian holds dear to his heart. He said every effort was made to halt this and the [word indistinct] of destruction. The central government will stand up and face these forces and he is sure that the parliament, the political parties, and the people would support the government. Mr. Chavan said the strongest action possible under the law has been initiated against those who incited people and brought crowds to Ayodhya and persuaded them to commit the heinous act. The investigation of offenses connected with the demolition has been entrusted to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and a commission of inquiry has been set up to inquire into the matters relating to the events at Ayodhya on the 6th of this month. He said the state governments have been advised to organize relief and rehabilitation to the victims immediately. Mr. Chavan said the implications of the Allahabad High Court judgment on the acquisition of 2.77 acres of land near the disputed site are being studied. He said appropriate decisions will be taken by the government regarding the land.

Arrested BJP Leaders' Safety Assured

BK1812091892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The home minister has assured the Rajya Sabha that government will take all precautionary measures for the safety of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, and others who are under detention. Mr. Chavan said that these leaders will be allowed to seek all possible legal help. He was responding to Mr. Sikander Bakht, BJP, reference to a newspaper report on the alleged inefficient security arrangements to Mr. Advani and others. A Janata Dal member said if the report is true, government should take proper steps. The home minister, however, said that prima facie there are no inadequate arrangements to the detained BJP leaders. The home minister did not comment on the BJP's demand to bring the arrested leaders to Delhi.

Similar assurances were given in the Lok Sabha also in response to the apprehension of a security threat to these leaders expressed by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and other

BJP members. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said that the government will not be found wanting in this regard. Earlier, raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and other BJP members alleged that the facility for consultations with his advocate has not been given to Mr. Advani.

Judicial Custody of Arrested BJP Leaders Extended

BK1812041092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The judicial custody of arrested BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Mr. L.K. Advani has been extended till the 30th of this month. They, along with two other leaders, were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mr. R.R. Yadav, at [word indistinct] in Uttar Pradesh yesterday.

Country Reported Peaceful; Arrests Continue

BK1712165692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from various states affected by the violence following the Ayodhya incidents speak of calm and peace prevailing everywhere. There is no report of any incident of violence anywhere. Curfew was lifted at some places and relaxed for varying periods at different places. The drive against the banned organizations, meanwhile, continued. Many more of their offices were sealed and their activists arrested.

In Maharashtra, normalcy returned in Bombay today after the week-long disturbances. The city police commissioner told our correspondent that he is satisfied with the law and order situation. The night curfew will continue as a precaution.

In Uttar Pradesh, almost total normalcy has returned in the curfew-bound areas. Curfew was relaxed in all the cities and towns, including Varanasi, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Moradabad in a phased manner today. Our Lucknow correspondent, quoting official sources, says no untoward incident was reported from anywhere during the relaxation period. Educational institutions have reopened in Etawah, Haridwar, Khurja, and Sikandrabad.

More than 5,300 members of the banned communal organizations have been arrested so far in the continuing nationwide crackdown. Uttar Pradesh accounts for 1,370 arrests. Reports reaching New Delhi say that the offices of the banned organizations have been sealed and their bank accounts frozen. The Bihar and the Tamil Nadu governments have also launched prosecution of those arrested.

In Himachal Pradesh, the number of people arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act has gone up to 43. They include four former BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MLA's [members of legislative assembly]. Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the state is peaceful.

Curfew Lifted in Madhya Pradesh

BK1812042492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, the day curfew has been lifted today in most of the 23 curfew-bound cities. The state governor, Mr. Kumar Mohammed Ali Khan, has asked officials to take up the relief and rehabilitation work on topmost priority. Payment of compensation to the victims has been started.

Iran

VOA Accused of Distorting Khamenei's Remarks

LD1712151792 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The Voice of America [VOA] in its Wednesday night Persian program broadcast some distorted parts of a speech made the same day by leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei's on human and women's rights.

The VOA misquoted Ayatollah Khamenei's as describing Western viewpoints on human rights as deceitful and as saying that the Islamic Republic would disregard the accusations levelled by the United Nations about human rights abuses in Iran.

The distortion of the leader's remarks by the VOA betrays the radio's intention to convince the world that Iran was basically against human rights.

In a part of his speech the leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the West's all-out support for the apostate author of the Satanic Verses and its indifference to the increasing massacre of the innocent people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, India and elsewhere in the world.

In this respect the leader maintained that these self-styled advocates of human rights were telling lies and their sole goal is to support those committing oppression against the humankind.

The radio again broadcast an incomplete part of the leader's speech, misquoting him as saying that the Islamic Republic would not pay any attention to what the U.N. committees were saying.

What actually was said by the leader of the Islamic Revolution about this issue is "to respect man and human rights is one of our basic principles."

And in criticizing a statement issued by the United Nations Committee on Human Rights, the supreme leader said "we advocate human rights and will continue to do so without paying attention to claims raised by the United Nations Committee (on Human Rights)."

The VOA broadcaster also referred to the condemnation of Iran by a United Nations committee and to unfounded allegations made by the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) citing alleged torture of prisoners, a large number of executions and persecution of Baha'is as examples of human rights violations in Iran.

In the course of the 1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war, the terrorist MKO members in collaboration with the Iraqi regime committed numerous crimes in Kurdistan and southern Iraq. Based on evidence, parts of these crimes were later disclosed by Iraqi opposition groups.

The VOA also misinterpreted in a cunning manner the leader's remarks concerning the dignity of women in Iran and misquotd him as saying that the duty of women was to give birth and bring up children and that Islam allowed them to have jobs provided that this would not affect their family role.

The fact is that the leader elaborated on women's characteristics and duties in Islamic societies from material and spiritual points of view, saying "a Muslim woman should strive to acquire science and promote her moral and spiritual values."

Further on the same subject, the supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution said "Islam approves of women having a job and even considers it necessary for women to work provided that this will not prevent them from carrying out their basic duties such as bringing up children and building families."

The VOA accused the leader of attacking women's liberation in the West as an effort to exploit them as cheap laborers and instruments for meeting men's sexual desires.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution in fact attacked lecherous men in the West who are trying to destroy women's personality and described the Westerners' slogan of women's liberation as an empty slogan.

In this respect, the leader stated "those pretending to be advocates of human and women's rights in the misled and ignorant world of Western civilization are actually committing injustice against them under the slogan of women's liberation which has turned women into instruments to satisfy the desires of lecherous men."

Brushing aside what is called in the West as women's liberation, the leader of the Islamic Revolution remarked "what is now called as women's liberation in the West is not really freedom but should rather be called license for men to exploit women for pleasure."

Israeli Expulsion of Palestinians Condemned

LD1812120192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the expulsion of a few hundred Palestinian youths from the occupied territories, saying: By deporting a few hundred Palestinian youths, the Zionist regime has committed an illegitimate act and has resorted to the most inhumane methods to drag them out of their homes and expel them from their homeland by force. This decision of the Zionist regime has deprived a nation of the right to live in its own homeland and contradicts all international rules, regulations, and accepted norms. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the world powers who support the Zionist regime are fundamentally responsible for such unbridled actions of the Zionist regime. Also responsible are the so-called human rights organizations and international circles which have kept silent in the face of the daily increasing crimes of the Zionists. While condemning the latest action of the Zionist regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran makes a strong call on all governments and the free thinking people of the world—particularly Islamic and Arab governments—and nations and international circles to use any possible means as soon as possible to stop such inhumane actions of the occupiers of Jerusalem and support the oppressed nation of Palestine in their brave and legitimate self-defense.

Commentary Questions U.S. Aims in Somalia

LD1712222292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1740 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The forces under U.S. command in Somalia have started their gradual advance to the rest of that country without facing any resistance from Somalian paramilitary forces. In parallel to this advance, political circles have unveiled differences between America and France, especially over the disarmament of the conflicting sides in Somalia's civil war.

The difference between America and France is over this issue: Should Somalian paramilitary forces be disarmed by the forces dispatched to that country or not? The White House had previously announced that the disarmament of Somalian paramilitary forces was not one of the duties placed on the shoulders of the forces dispatched by the United Nations. However, the French Foreign Ministry has announced that the disarmament of the conflicting sides in Somalia is part of the mission of the dispatched forces—since disarmament is one of the steps needed to create a safe environment to carry out relief work. Of course, it seems that the root of this difference goes back to the command of the allied forces, since America is trying to carry out any possible action itself—including if needed the disarmament of the paramilitary forces.

Noting the ambiguities that exist in Security Council Resolution 794, the differences that have arisen between Washington and Paris look natural. Furthermore, they increase this probability: Other similar differences might surface among the ranks of the multinational forces. Part of Resolution 794 states: Allied forces are to use all

possible means to establish security for the distribution of food aid to the famine-stricken people. However, there are no further explanations. Hence, the measures of the active forces in Somalia might go beyond the framework established by the articles of Resolution 794; and that could produce other difficulties and differences.

Therefore, it seems that the measures of the active forces in Somalia might gradually place the main objective of the Security Council resolution, which is the protection of relief supplies, at a lower priority than the implementation of other objectives. Furthermore, if we accept the hypothesis that the objectives of American-led forces go beyond the supervision of distribution of food in Somalia, we must look for their main objectives in their action in the strategic position of the Horn of Africa and the prevailing conditions in that region.

Following the absence of the former Soviet Union in the Horn of Africa, the presence of America in this region can complement Washington's influence in the Persian Gulf-Red Sea axis. Furthermore, America intends to control the main routes of the transfer of energy to the West and to use it as a lever in international competition. In that light, one cannot disregard the gradual [American] occupation of traditional British and French bases in the Horn of Africa.

U.S. President George Bush has said that he would like to withdraw American military forces from Somalia by 19 January —the day before he hands over the Presidency to Clinton. However the experience of the Persian Gulf war places doubts about Bush's words, since before attacking Iraq, America also announced that it would leave Persian Gulf waters at the end of the war. At the end of the Persian Gulf war, America not only did not leave the region; it strengthened its presence in this region through defense pacts with a number of countries of the Persian Gulf basin. With the passing of Resolution 678, the United States received permission to remain in the Persian Gulf. And now, it regards Resolution 794 as a seal of approval for its presence in the Horn of Africa. Meanwhile, the important issue—and the issue that has created doubt among political circles—is the clear contradiction that has been created between the utterances of American officials and the contents of Resolution 794.

Previously, the actions of America under the flag and supervision of the United Nations was being underlined. However, existing evidence indicates that the actions of the dispatched forces to Somalia are gradually going beyond the framework of Security Council Resolution 794. Following the end of the Cold War, this is the second time that the Security Council has divulged the responsibility of implementing its resolutions to member states led by America without guidance from the United Nations—last year, with Resolution 678 in the Persian Gulf and this year with Resolution 794 in Somalia. Will we witness similar tactics in other strategic regions in the future?

Larijani Wants Islamic Forces in Bosnia, Kosovo

NC1812101292 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Dec 92 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Deterrent Diplomacy or...?"]

[Text] 1. Butrus-Ghali stated that a 700-man UN contingent will be deployed on Macedonia's borders with Kosovo and Albania to prevent conflicts in this part of the Balkans. More importantly, he said that this is the first case of a deterrent or preventive diplomacy by the United Nations as called for by that organization's "peace plan" compiled by the secretary general.

2. The question is: What use will these forces be on the Macedonian border with Kosovo and Albania and how do they aim to prevent bloodshed? From which direction and which element is the tension being intensified? Kosovo is situated in the former Yugoslavia and is a Muslim-inhabited state of ethnic Albanians. Undoubtedly, once the mission is completed in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the criminal Serbs will start to deport the Muslims from Kosovo. And how can the UN forces prevent this from happening on the Macedonian border?

One should say that the sole mission of these forces is to safeguard the Serbs! The Albanian Government has stated that if the Serbs attempt their racial cleansing policy in Kosovo, it will interfere and confront the Serbs.

Within this context, Turkey has signed a defense pact with Albania and entered the scene as military support. The attempt by the United Nations aims to prevent Albania's interference in support of Kosovo's Muslims! It is an overt green light to the Serbs to expel the Muslims from Kosovo! So this is the meaning of Butrus-Ghali's preventive policy!

3. I think Islamic countries or some of them should violate practically the new self-delegated duties of Butrus-Ghali. Islamic countries should send military forces to Bosnia-Hercegovina. They should start deploying these forces in Kosovo now. They should not allow the rabid West to act under the mask of the well-intentioned role of a disgraced Copt and insult the Islamic dignity of over one billion Muslims more. Who has granted the United Nations the permission to act like a world ruler? Who has accepted Butrus-Ghali's prescription for "peace" in the world? Who has said the United Nations can slaughter national sovereignty as a sacrifice at the altar of wishes to rule the world by the United States and the West? No new [UN] charter has been compiled for these gentlemen to show such haste. If such a charter did exist, what would happen? Undoubtedly, Butrus-Ghali's prescription is contrary to the contents of the UN Charter. One can understand why these gentlemen are showing such haste to put things on the course they want before writing a new charter—because there is no chance the new charter will succeed!

Aid Sent to Azerbaijan, Nakhichevan

LD1712210592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The first convoy of foodstuffs, fuel, and passengers—comprising dozens of trucks, oil-tankers, and buses—to alleviate the shortages of the Muslim people of Nakhichevan, set off for Nakhichevan via the Aslanduz dam.

In an interview, the Eastern Azerbaijan governor-general referred to the three-month-old efforts by the Joint Economic and Social Cooperation Commission. He announced that the volume of commercial exchange between the two countries is now $50 million, and added: Through setting up of common border minimarkets and the participation of the private sector in this exchange, the value of the exchanges will rise to $200 million.

Referring to the leadership's emphasis on giving help to the people of Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, he announced: As well as helping Azerbaijan in securing fuel and foodstuffs, especially bread for Nakhichevan, at present about 60 megawatts of electricity is being transferred to Nakhichevan every day from the nation's electricity network.

President on Self-Sufficiency; Zero Budget Deficit

LD1812101492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by correspondent Rohani-nejad on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Qom]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting last night with the head and members of the Supreme Administrative Council of the Qom Seminary, emphasized that at no time has our country been like today when all tasks are being done by ourselves. At the moment we have no need of foreigners and are proud that we are the only country in the world that is standing on its own feet.

During the meeting, where a great number of Qom's ulema, political, and academic personalities were present, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, depicting a general picture of the state economic growth trend and the big strides that the government has taken towards the community's social and cultural development said: After 25 years when the country's budget was facing a deficit—and in the year beginning 21 March 1988, 51 percent of the budget was secured through loans—this year for the first time the government's income and expenditure have become equal and the budget deficit has been reduced to zero.

The president added: One of the issues which the enemies of the Islamic revolution once put forward as the weak point of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system was the state's lack of economic power. They chided us by raising the issues of loan, budget deficit, and lack of impetus in economic sectors. But the infrastructural plans during the past four years demonstrated that the state has undergone fundamental economic change and is on the way to development.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: Today the clergy must raise the substantial developments during recent years as a point of power and be proud of themselves.

In another part of his remarks, the president, referring to cultural developments and the enhancement of the community's academic-educational power in recent years, said: Today seminaries and the clergy must, with all their might and by utilizing the required resources and equipment, look at issues from the government's point of view, and they must take into account all aspects in their approach to others, especially the youth.

Stressing the need for strengthening the youth of the country from the academic and cultural points of view, he said: Today hundreds of thousands of youth interested in academic studies are taken by universities and are going through high levels of education in the most unprecedented circumstances. This is a great honor for our revolutionary country and culture-loving community.

The head of the supreme Islamic cultural revolution also recalled the need for the seminarians to be acquainted with various academic subjects, especially current languages. Referring to the role of the youth in the future of the state, he said: If we cannot safeguard the young generation with independence, logic, and correct psychology, the future will be fraught with danger. Therefore, the clergy and other state cultural establishments, especially the Voice and Vision and the press, must respond to the community's spiritual need, always ready and well-equipped.

The president gave assurance that the path the country has now chosen is very good and will bring a bright future as a gift for our revolutionary community.

Referring to the high academic, intellectual, and cultural level of the young clerics and their political wisdom, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered the use of the new teaching technology in the seminaries to be a requisite for speeding up learning and said: The shape of the new administration of the seminary gives us hope about the future, and I am certain that if the seminaries and the clerics were to be strengthened and equipped, it would mean that the most basic task has been fulfilled.

At the start of the meeting, Ayatollah Meshkini, leader of the Qom Religious Teachers' Society, in a statement, described the auspicious visits by the president to various areas of the country, especially to the holy city of Qom, to be a source of satisfaction and consolidation of the status and values of the Islamic revolution and praised the courageous, decisive, and Islamic stands of the president in international issues—especially regarding the world of Islam. Declaring the total support of the ulema and clerics of the Qom seminary, the leader

of the Qom Religious Teachers' Society and friday prayer imam expressed the hope that the government's programs to be successful and effective in alleviating the pressures on the community's weak strata.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Grand Ayatollahs

NC1812091092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met separately with Their Eminences Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki in Qom last night. In his meeting with the president, Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani said that serving the people is a divine duty and prayed for the president's success. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked him for his services to medical centers that he supervises in Qom and elsewhere and said his participation in such things is extremely encouraging for the government and people. The president noted that Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani's presence is among the divine blessings on the seminaries.

In his meeting, Grand Ayatollah Araki expressed wishes for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's success and described him as a prudent and skilled administrator and a source of pride. He thanked the president for his efforts to erase the wretched symbols of the past and to establish the rule of Islamic values in society. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Grand Ayatollah Araki for his kindness toward the government and officials and stated: We have always enjoyed your guidance.

President Urges Unity Between Seminary, University

LD1712200992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpts] As you were informed in today's Voice and Vision bulletins, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Qom today to pay a visit to the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh and meet with the people of Qom. He was warmly welcomed by religious scholars, students and people of Qom. We begin our news details with the report of our correspondent from Qom on the continuation of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The president attended the meeting of seminary and university students who were participating in the fifth gathering of cooperation between seminary and university, held at the Dar al-Shafa Seminary in Qom this evening. He stressed: The issue of unity between seminary and university goes beyond political notions and wisdom. The most important principle here is to look for fundamental common grounds for study and research on the basis of the requirements of the society and Islamic government. He added: Separating the seminary from the university and building imaginary fences and walls are wrong and dangerous and would have negative consequences for the society. The president expressed hope that seminary and university students should prevent the spiritual deprivation of the community through exerting mutual influence on each other to safeguard them against unforeseen happenings. [passage omitted]

The head of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] said the prolonged crisis of isolation of religion and separation of governments from religion, and isolation of religious scholars and experts [olama va mojtahedan] from government result in the restriction of knowledge in schools and deviation. He said: We are still preoccupied with dregs of the ideology of the isolation era, and still some people see intervention in official, political, and military affairs as some kind of breaching of their duties. This way of thinking is a product of the colonial culture and to be more precise it is anti-Islamic and is a cause of degradation, which should be reformed.

The president referred to the need for realization of the governmental jurisprudence [feqh-e hokumati] as the old aspiration of the revolution and stressed: The situation should not be so that we leave people's affairs to others and we only attend to the affairs of the afterlife. All those issues should be dealt with as a whole and the most important measure taken by the seminary and university should be the establishment of unity so as not to separate religious and worldly issues.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If the issues of unity between seminary and university and elimination of the existing ideological gap spread to Shiite and Sunni seminaries all over the world, then the era of religious sovereignty will be attained. He said: The world with all its materialism has never been separated from spirituality. The biggest achievement of the Islamic revolution is that it opened a path from that isolation to a new world, where the unity of the seminary and the university is its great window and axis, and arrogance is in great fear of this. [passage omitted]

Emami-Kashani Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD1812115592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Tehran Friday prayer was held today at its usual meeting place at the Tehran University ground with the participation of the mass of prayer givers. Ayatollah Emami-Kashani led the prayers.

The ad hoc Friday prayer leader of Tehran, speaking on the occasion of the auspicious birthday anniversary of her holiness Fatimah Zahra, peace be on her, devoted the first sermon to a survey of the short but fruitful life of that holy lady. Referring to Women's Week he said that women hold a very high status in Islam and her holiness Fatimah Zahra, peace be on her, was the full epitome of Islamic women. That is because her life was full of virtue, knowledge, and spirituality.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, meanwhile, said that the status of women in the West is a source of shame for humanity. He said: The Western world has debased woman reducing them to the level of a consumer item. It knows very well to what degree of injustice and oppression it has subjected women.

Referring to the issue of human rights he said: The issue of human rights, which these days is being used as a ploy by Western powers, is a lofty objective which has been fully defined in the best possible style by devine messengers. But today the kind of people are claiming to champion that cause who lack even the most elementary qualification on that issue. In fact they use it as a political weapon.

Raising the issue of ever increasing crimes against Muslims in Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani asked: Are these aggressions not in violation of human rights? So why are the Western governments, the international organizations, and self-styled defenders of human rights silent about them? He said that the most recent crime of the Zionist regime in expulsion of Palestinian Muslims was a blatant violation of primary rights of man. He then called on Muslim governments to act in unison to prevent implementation of that plot.

Summing up his remarks and addressing the Western governments, he said that Muslims all over the world are awake and the West's poisonous propaganda has no effect. He also recommended that the world Muslims rely on unity, Islam, and God in an effort to neutralize the enemy plots.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Mofattah and Tondguyan, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani remembered their services. Remembering martyr Dr. Mofattah's efforts to bind the seminary to university he said that such a bond would materialize only by teaching Islamic culture at universities.

Pakistan

Government Announces Defense Budget Freeze

BK1712165392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Pakistan Government has decided to freeze its defence budget at its current level of 3.2 billion dollars, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday [17 December].

The decision "is in line with our desire to promote a climate of peace in South Asia as well as our desire to allocate maximum resources for economic development," the official said.

He expressed the hope that India, Islamabad's traditional foe, would reciprocate "our self-restraint."

Pakistan has been under pressure from the international donor agencies, mainly the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to cut its budget deficit, estimated at 2.60 billion dollars for the 1992-93 financial year ending June 30.

The defence expenditure accounts for about 40 percent of the 1992-93 budget which amounts to 11.72 billion dollars, according to official figures.

The sum budgeted for defence in the current year represented an increase of about nine percent over the previous year's allocation.

The spokesman said the government was considering recommendations by an economy commission to reduce expenditure on diplomatic representation abroad.

He said the relations with India, the situation in South Asia and the developments in Central Asia, would be taken into account as these required "maximum application of diplomatic resources."

Press reports earlier said the government had decided to keep the defence outlay at its present level for the next three financial years and that the armed forces would receive a special 600 million grant for the period.

The military has been told that for any major purchases which exceed their allocation they will have to make up the difference from their recurring defence budget, the reports said.

The Pakistani army reportedly plans to buy 300 T-72 tanks from Eastern Europe and the air force is exploring the possibility of buying 40 Russian SU-27 fighter jets. The Navy is said to be close to finalizing a deal for the purchase of three French submarines.

The freeze is expected to worry the armed forces and necessitate internal readjustments including reduced fresh induction, the reports said.

Minister Claims Self-Sufficient Nuclear Capability

BK1812120992 Lahore JANG in Urdu 16 Dec 92 pp 8, 5

[Text] Islamabad (JANG News)—Pakistan is capable of manufacturing everything, including the nuclear missiles, for its defense and it has nothing to worry about from Indian missiles. The danger of war is always there but we are fully alert and are not oblivious to the defense of the motherland. No one can declare us a terrorist state. We have been supporting the cause of our Kashmiri brethren and will continue to do so in the future as well. These observations were made by Minister for Defense Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani while talking to newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony of the staff union of the Regional Finance Development Corporation. Bijarani said Pakistan possesses the capability to manufacture everything, including the nuclear missiles, for its defense, adding that even if India has

developed any sophisticated missiles, we ought not to have any fear about this because the armed forces will not disappoint the nation.

The minister disclosed that the private sector is involved in a massive scale in the production of defense equipment, and a defense seminar will be organized in the next few days that will offer proposals and recommendations for the involvement of the private sector in the defense industry and that will provide incentives to private investors to involve themselves in this field.

The federal minister said we have been supporting the struggle of the Kashmiris from the very beginning. They have been waging their war of independence themselves and every nation has the right to wage a struggle for freedom. Pakistan will continue to support the legitimate cause of the Kashmiris. We have never indulged in any act of terrorism nor do we support terrorism, and therefore no one can declare us terrorists. Any talk about this is nothing but mere apprehension.

Commenting on a report published in another newspaper, not JANG, about the purchase of arms from the United States, the minister for defense production said Washington has still not lifted its ban on the supply of arms because the Pressler Amendment is still effective. No decision has yet been made about taking the issue of supply of F-16 aircraft to the International Court of Justice.

Hazar Khan Bijarani said that in view of the situation prevailing in the country, the government and the opposition should end their tension and confrontation, which is not in the interests of the two sides. He said he has always stressed the need for a dialogue, but the negotiations should not be made into an issue. He said Nawaz Sharif had convened the roundtable conference in all sincerity in view of the national and regional situation and the opposition should have attended it and participated in making decisions to tide over the crisis facing the country. This is not a question of the success or failure of any one person; it is a national problem, the minister observed.

Answering a question, the defense production minister said the army will remain in Sindh for the time being. The army has restored peace and law and order, and other remaining things will be settled in the next few weeks, after which any decision to withdraw the army will be made. He said the situation is now good for holding by-elections in Sindh, but a final decision to this effect must be made by the Sindh chief minister, Bijarani added.

U.S. Move on 'Terrorist State' Ruled Out

BK1712154892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has ruled out the possibility of the United States declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, saying a question of this does not arise at all. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the yardsticks set for declaring any country as a terrorist state do not apply to Pakistan and only that country comes under their purview which has earlier kidnapped and then killed innocent people and Pakistanis by staging fake military encounters. The spokesman categorically stated that Pakistan definitely provides political and moral support to the Kashmiri people's struggle for the realization of their right of self-determination, but he denied that Islamabad is giving any military assistance to the Kashmiris. He said Pakistan is ready for an international investigation into this claim.

Answering a question, the spokesman said Pakistan has not received any official information from the United States about Washington's intention to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan is ready to continue negotiations to normalize relations with India. He added that Pakistan has always been willing to adopt a meaningful, justified, and appropriate attitude toward resolving various bilateral issues, like Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek, and Wular Barrage. Commenting on the current state of India-Pakistan relations, the spokesman said currently these relations are passing through a very difficult time due to the domestic situation and developments in India.

Tortured Diplomat Returns to Lahore From Delhi

BK1812092092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Mohammad Ashfaq, an official of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi who was subjected to torture by Indian security agencies, arrived in Lahore yesterday. He was received by the mayor of Lahore at the airport. In an interview, Mohammad Ashfaq said that he was shopping at a market in New Delhi when the Indian security agency officials caught him. He said that he apprised the security officials of his diplomatic status, but despite this, he was repeatedly beaten up.

Minister Discusses Amendment to Antiterrorism Act

BK1712111792 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 16: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain said here on Wednesday [16 December], the amendment in the Suppression of Terrorist Activities Act (Special Courts Act 1975) is to check the anti-state activities and to punish the criminals.

In a Press statement, he said it was misleading to describe any political reasons to the amendment. The misgivings about this amendment were baseless as the government is duty bound to initate legal measures to curb terrorists activities in the country.

The Minister categorically stated that the amendment was not something unusual as some political circles has

tried to point it. He said that identical provisions were there in the Speedy Trial Courts Act of 1991 which stated that "no court except the special court shall have the powers or jurisdiction to grant the bail to any accused person".

The Minister said the amendment was in the public interest and the law and order situation did not allow any kind of leniency and the criminals should not be spared at any cost.

He said the resurction to bail, in fact was intended to be applicable only where the special courts feel that "there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused has been guilty of offence for which the accused has been charged". He said in such a situation if an application for bail was moved, the court shall give prior notice to the prosecution.

Explaining the rationale he said, the special court had to consider reasonable grounds for forming its opinion.

Secondly, he said both parties were to be heard by court before granting of bail provision of which could only be described as fair and reasonable and fulfils the requirements of natural justice.

He said these provisions are made applicable only in respect of offences which are serious offences from the view point of society and prevention of terrorism. The amendment, he said, was to provide a sense of security to the citizens. Why should any law abiding citizen object to such provisions if he does not want to indulge in terrorist activities? Similar amendment[s] have also made in the past in respect of similar laws, he added.

The Minister said the criticism now made by "interested quarters is motivated and appears to be base on politicising the law and order situation instead of promoting national interest and national welfare. The anxiety of all concerned should be directed towards apprehending the culprits and offenders and provide speedy and deterrent punishment instead of delaying the trial and defeat the very object for which the Anti-Terrorist Act has been enacted. It is the duty of every government tho adopt such legal measures which prevent freedom to terrorists and anti-state elements. In the opinion of the government, the amendment is healthy and would prevent terrorist activity.

Sri Lanka

No Consensus Reached on Plan To End Fighting

BK1712075892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (AFP)—A panel of legislators has officially informed parliament that they failed to reach a consensus on a political package to end Sri Lanka's long-drawn ethnic bloodletting, press reports here said Thursday.

The parliamentary select committee (PSC) appointed 16 months ago to hammer out a solution failed to agree on a controversial territorial demand of the country's minority Tamils, PSC chairman Mangala Munasinghe said. He told parliament that the four Sinhalese-based parties and a Moslem group favoured splitting into two separate units the existing northeastern province where the Tamils are concentrated.

Munasinghe's report to parliament late Wednesday was the first official confirmation that the PSC had failed to arrive at a formula acceptable to both majority Sinhalese as well as Tamils.

A Tamil MP, Suresh Premachandran, who took part in the discussions, broke an oath of silence earlier in the week to publicly describe the PSC as an "utter farce" and accused majority MP's of refusing to compromise.

Munasinghe told parliament the majority of the PSC favoured an unspecified "scheme of devolution similar to that which obtains in India in the administration of states."

However, Tamil MP's said their Sinhalese colleagues were unwilling to commit themselves to granting powers similar to those enjoyed by state governments in India which had authority over land and law and order.

"During the entire process of the PSC, there was no serious consultation, no sign of any compromise by the UNP (ruling United National Party) or the SLFP (main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party) and certainly no consensus with the Tamil parties on any matter," a statement by six Tamil parties said.

Political analysts here believe that the collapse of the latest peace bid will strengthen the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas and lead to more strife in the ethnically divided island nation.

Mainstream Tamil political parties as well as the LTTE have been campaigning for making one separate administrative unit uniting of northern and eastern provinces which are temporarily merged in line with the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact. The 1987 pact too ended in failure despite New Delhi's military intervention to disarm the LTTE. India lost 1,140 soldiers during their 32-month presence in the island's northeast.

The two provinces account for about one third of the land area and the Sinhalese have maintained that granting greater autonomy to such a large unit was unacceptable to them.

"With the sad end of the select committee there will be more killings. Sabotage will continue," Premachandran said. Previous attempts in the past 10 years to resolve the ethnic crisis resulted in more bloodletting.

Parliamentary Committee Statement

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[Text] The chairman of the parliament select committee to find a solution to the northeast problem, Mangala Munasinghe, MP, has said in a statement to the speaker, M.H. Mohamed, that the committee has explored all avenues to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties concerned. He was pleased to report that the members of the committee representing the UNP [United National Party], the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], the SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya], CP [Communist Party], and the LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] have reached an agreement on the establishment of two separate councils for the north and east and to treat the north and the east as two distinct provinces (?under) a scheme of devolution similar to that of which obtains in India in the administration of the states. The statement further says that the MP for the Jaffna district, K. Srinivasan, and the MP for the Batticaloa district, Bashir (Segudawood), supported these conclusions. The MEP's [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna's] representative supported the merger of the north and the east.

Two members representing the six Tamil political parties and the members representing the CWC [Ceylon Workers Party] were not in agreement with the conclusion of the other parties. Mr. Mangala Munasinghe says that the committee proposed to submit the report on these conclusions next month. It will continue in its efforts in accordance with the mandate given by parliament. At the conclusion of parliamentary sitting last evening, the speaker, M.H. Mohamed, read out the statement issued by the select committee.